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THE
POETICAL WORKS

OF

WILLIAM SHENSTONE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

COLLATED WITH THE BEST EDITIONS.

BY

THOMAS PARK, F.S.A.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

Printed at the Stanhope Press,

BY WHITTECHAM AND ROWLAND,
Bouverie Street,

PURCHASED BY SUTCLIFFE, EVANCE, AND FOX, STATIONERS;
COOK, MURGATROYD, SHARPE AND HAWLEY, PICCADILLY;
AND CEDAR AND HESSEY, FLEET STREET.

1812



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ENCOMIUMS ON SHENSTONE.

WRITTEN ON A FERME ORNEE, NEAR BIRMINGHAM.

BY LADY LUXBOROUGH.

'Tis Nature here bids pleasing scenes arise,
And wisely gives them Cynthia to revise ;
To veil each blemish, brighten every grace,
Yet still preserve the lovely parent's face.
How well the Bard obeys, each valley tells,
These lucid streams, gay meads, and lonely cells ;
Where modest Art in silence lurks conceal'd,
While Nature shines, so gracefully reveal'd,
That she triumphant claims the total plan,
And with fresh pride adopts the work of man.

TO WILLIAM SHENSTONE, ESQ.

AT THE LEASOWES.

BY THE REV. RICHARD GRAVES.

—
‘Vellum in amicitia sic erraremus’¹ —

HOR.

SEE! the tall youth, by partial Fate's decree,
 To affluence born, and from restraint set free;
 Eager he seeks the scenes of gay resort,
 The Mall, the rout, the playhouse, and the court:
 Soon for some varnish'd nymph of dubious fame,
 Or powder'd peeress, counterfeits a flame.
 Behold him now, enraptur'd, swear and sigh,
 Dress, dance, drink, revel, all he knows not why,
 Till by kind Fate restor'd to country air,
 He marks the roses of some rural fair;
 Smit with her unaffected native charms,
 A real passion soon his bosom warms;
 And, wak'd from idle dreams, he takes a wife,
 And tastes the genuine happiness of life.

Thus, in the vacant season of the year,
 Some Templar gay begins his wild career;
 From seat to seat o'er pompous scenes he flies,
 Views all with equal wonder and surprise,
 Till, sick of domes, arcades, and temples, grown,
 He hies fatigued, not satisfied, to Town:

¹ IMITATION.

In friendship thus, O! be we still beguil'd!

Yet if some kinder genius point his way
 To where the Muses o'er thy Leasowes stray,
 Charm'd with the silvan beauties of the place,
 Where Art assumes the sweets of Nature's face,
 Each hill, each dale, each consecrated grove,
 Each lake and falling stream, his rapture move.
 Like the sage captive in Calypso's grot,
 The cares, the pleasures, of the world forgot,
 Of calm content he hails the genuine sphere,
 And longs to dwell a blissful hermit here.

VERSES RECEIVED BY THE POST.

FROM A LADY UNKNOWN, 1761.

HEALTH to the Bard in Leasowes' happy groves;
 Health, and sweet converse with the Muse he loves!
 The humblest votary of the tuneful Nine,
 With trembling hand, attempts her artless line,
 In numbers such as untaught Nature brings,
 As flow, spontaneous, like thy native springs.

But, ah! what airy forms around me rise!
 The russet mountain glows with richer dyes;
 In circling dance a pigmy crowd appear,
 And, hark! an infant voice salutes my ear!
 'Mortal! thy aim we know, thy task approve;
 His merit honour, and his genius love:
 For us what verdant carpets has he spread,
 Where, nightly, we our mystic mazes tread!
 For us each shady grove and rural seat,
 His falling streams and flowing numbers sweet!
 Didst thou not mark, amid the winding dell,
 What tuneful verse adorns the mossy cell?

There every fairy of our sprightly train
 Resort, to bless the woodland and the plain :
 There, as we move, unbidden beauties glow,
 The green turf brightens, and the violets blow ;
 And there with thoughts sublime we bless the swain,
 Nor we inspire, nor he attends, in vain.

Go, simple rhymer ! bear this message true ;
 The truths that fairies dictate, none shall rue.
 Say to the bard in Leasowes' happy grove,
 Whom dryads honour, and whom fairies love—
 'Content thyself no longer that thy lays,
 By others foster'd, lend to others praise ;
 No longer to the favouring world refuse
 The welcome treasures of thy polish'd muse ;
 The scatter'd blooms that boast thy valued name,
 Collect, unite, and give the wreath to Fame ;
 Ne'er can thy virtues, or thy verse, engage,
 More solid praise than in this happiest age,
 When sense and merit's cherish'd by the throne,
 And each illustrious privilege their own.
 Though modest be thy gentle Muse, I ween,
 Oh ! lead her blushing from the daisied green,
 A fit attendant on Britannia's queen.'

Ye sportive elves ! as faithful I relate
 The intrusted mandates of your fairy state,
 Visit these wilds again with nightly care ;
 So shall my kine, of all the herd, repair
 In healthful plight to fill the copious pail ;
 My sheep lie pent with safety in the dale ;
 My poultry fear no robber in the roost ;
 My linen more than common whiteness boast :
 Let order, peace, and housewifery, be mine ;
 Shenstone ! be fancy, fame, and fortune, thine !

COTSWOULDIA,

ON THE DISCOVERY OF AN ECHO**AT EDGBASTON.**

HA! what art thou, whose voice unknown
Pours on these plains its tender moan?
Art thou the nymph in Shenstone's dale,
Who dost with plaintive note bewail
That he forsakes the Aonian maids,
To court inconstant rills and shades?
Mourn not, sweet nymph!—Alas! in vain
Do they invite and thou complain.—

Yet while he woo'd the gentle throng
With liquid lay and melting song,
The listening herd around him stray'd,
In wanton brisk the lambkins play'd,
And every Naiad ceas'd to lave
Her azure limbs amid the wave:
The Graces danc'd; the rosy band
Of Smiles and Loves went hand in hand,
And purple Pleasures strew'd the way
With sweetest flowers; and every ray
Of each fond Muse with rapture fir'd,
To glowing thoughts his breast inspir'd;
The hills rejoic'd, the vallies rung,
All Nature smil'd while Shenstone sung.

So charm'd his lay; but now no more—
Ah! why dost thou repeat—‘No more?’
Ev'n now he hies to deck the grove,
To deck the scene the Muses love,
And soon again will own their sway,
And thou resound the peerless lay,
And with immortal numbers fill
Each rocky cave and vocal hill.

*ON HIS FIRST ARRIVAL AT THE
LEASOWES, 1754.*

BY ROBERT DODSLEY.

‘How shall I fix my wandering eye? where find
The source of this enchantment? Dwells it in
The woods? or waves there not a magic wand
O’er the translucent waters? Sure, unseen,
Some favouring power directs the happy lines
That sketch these beauties; swells the rising hills,
And scoops the dales to Nature’s finest forms,
Vague, undetermin’d, infinite; untaught
By line or compass, yet supremely fair!’
So spake Philenor, as with raptur’d gaze
He travers’d Damon’s farm: from distant plains
He sought his friend’s abode; nor had the fame
Of that new-form’d Arcadia reach’d his ear.

And thus the swain, as o’er each hill and dale,
Through lawn or thicket, he pursued his way:—
‘What is it gilds the verdure of these meads
With hues more bright than Fancy paints the flowers
Of Paradise? What Naiad’s guiding hand
Leads, through the broider’d vale, these lucid rills,
That, murmuring as they flow, bear melody
Along their banks, and through the vocal shades
Improve the music of the woodland choir?
What pensive Dryad rais’d yon solemn grove,
Where minds contemplative at close of day
Retiring, muse o’er Nature’s various works,
Her wonders venerate, or her sweets enjoy?—
What room for doubt? some rural deity,
Presiding, scatters o’er the unequal lawns,

In beauteous wildness, yon fair-spreading trees,
And, mingling woods and waters, hills and dales,
And herds and bleating flocks, domestic fowl,
And those that swim the lake, sees rising round
More pleasing landscapes than in Tempe's vale
Penéus water'd. Yes, some silvan god
Spreads wide the varied prospect, waves the woods,
Lifts the proud hills, and clears the shining lakes;
While, from the congregated waters pour'd,
The bursting torrent tumbles down the steep
In foaming fury; fierce, irregular,
Wild, interrupted, cross'd with rocks and roots
And interwoven trees; till, soon absorb'd,
An opening cavern all its rage entombs.
So vanish human glories! such the pomp
Of swelling warriors, of ambitious kings,
Who fret and strut their hour upon the stage
Of busy life, and then are heard no more!

'Yes, 'tis enchantment all—And see! the spells,
The powerful incantations, magic verse,
Inscrib'd on every tree, alcove, or urn.—
Spells!—Incantations!—Ah! my tuneful friend!
Thine are the numbers, thine the wondrous work!—
Yes, great magician! now I read thee right,
And lightly weigh all sorcery but thine.
No Naiad's leading step conducts the rill,
Nor silvan god presiding skirts the lawn
In beauteous wildness, with fair-spreading trees,
Nor magic wand has circumscrib'd the scene:
'Tis thine own taste, thy genius that presides,
Nor needs there other deity, nor needs
More potent spells than they!—No more the swain,
For, lo! his Damon, o'er the tufted lawn
Advancing, leads him to the social dome.

TO

MR. ROBERT DODSLEY,
ON THE DEATH OF MR. SHENSTONE.

'Thee, Shepherd ! thee the woods and desert caves,
 With wild thyme and the gadding vine o'ergrown,
 And all their echoes, mourn.' MILT.

'Tis past, my friend ! the transient scene is clos'd !
 The fairy pile, the' enchanted vision, rais'd
 By Damon's magic skill, is lost in air ! [main,

What though the lawns and pendent woods re-
 Each tinkling stream, each rushing cataract,
 With lapse incessant echoes through the dale ?
 Yet what avails the lifeless landscape now ?
 The charm's dissolv'd; the genius of the wood,
 Alas ! is flown—for Damon is no more !

As when from fair Lycaeum, crown'd with pines,
 Or Mænarus, with leaves autumnal strew'd,
 The tuneful Pan retires, the vocal hills
 Resound no more, and all Arcadia mourns.

Yet here we fondly dream'd of lasting joys ;
 Here we had hop'd, from noisy throngs retir'd,
 To drink large draughts of Friendship's cordial
 stream,

In sweet oblivion wrap'd, by Damon's verse
 And social converse, many a summer's day.

Romantic wish ! in vain frail mortals trace
 The' imperfect sketch of human bliss—Whilst yet
 The' enraptur'd sire his well-plann'd structure views
 Majestic rising midst his infant groves,

Sees the dark laurel spread its glossy shade,
Its languid bloom the purple lilac blend,
Or pale laburnum drop its pensile chain,
Death spreads the fatal shaft, and bids his heir
Transplant the cypress round his father's tomb.

Oh! teach me then, like you, my friend! to raise
To moral truths my grovelling song: for, ah!
Too long, by lawless Fancy led astray,
Of nymphs and groves I've dream'd, and dancing
fauns,
Or Naiad leaning o'er her tinkling urn.
Oh! could I learn to sanctify my strains
With hymns, like those by tuneful Merrick sung—
Or rather catch the melancholy sounds
From Warton's reed, or Mason's lyre—to paint
The sudden gloom that damps my soul—But see!
Melpomene herself has snatch'd the pipe
With which sad Lyttelton his Lucia mourn'd,
And plaintive cries, ' My Shenstone is no more !'

R. GRAVES,

VERSES

WRITTEN IN THE GARDENS OF

WILLIAM SHENSTONE, ESQ.

NEAR BIRMINGHAM, 1756.

'*Ille terrarum mihi præter omnes
Angulus ridet!*' HOR.

WOULD you these lov'd recesses trace,
And view fair Nature's modest face?
See her in every field-flower bloom,
O'er every thicket shed perfume?
By verdant groves, and vocal hills,
By mossy grots, near purling rills,
Where'er you turn your wondering eyes,
Behold her win without disguise.

What though no pageant trifles here,
As in the glare of courts, appear?
Though rarely here be heard the name
Of rank or title, power or fame?
Yet, if ingenuous be your mind,
A bliss more pure and unconfin'd
Your step attends—Draw freely nigh,
And meet the bard's benignant eye:
On him no pedant forms await,
No proud reserve shuts up his gate;
No spleen, no party views, control
That warm benevolence of soul

IMITATION.

Whate'er the beauties others boast,
'That spot of ground delights me most.'

Which prompts the friendly generous part,
Regardless of each venal art,
Regardless of the world's acclaim,
And courteous with no selfish aim ;
Draw freely nigh, and welcome find,
If not the costly, yet the kind.

Oh ! he will lead you to the cells
Where every Muse and Virtue dwells,
Where the green Dryads guard his woods,
Where the blue Naiads guide his floods,
Where all the sister-Graces gay,
That shap'd his walk's meandering way,
Stark-naked, or but wreath'd with flowers,
Lie slumbering soft beneath his bowers.

Wak'd by the stock-dove's melting strain,
Behold them rise ! and, with the train
Of nymphs that haunt the stream or grove;
Or o'er the flowery champaign rove,
Join hand in hand—attentive gaze—
And mark the dance's mystic maze.

‘ Such is the waving line,’ they cry,
For ever dear to Fancy’s eye !
Yon stream that wanders down the dale,
The spiral wood, the winding vale,
The path which, wrought with hidden skill,
Slow twining, scales yon distant hill,
With fir invested—all combine
To recommend the waving line.

‘ The wreathed rod of Bacchus fair,
The ringlets of Apollo’s hair,
The wand by Maia’s offspring borne,
The smooth volutes of Anmon’s horn,
The structure of the Cyprian dame,
And each fair female’s beauteous frame,

Show, to the pupils of Design,
The triumphs of the waving line.'

Then gaze, and mark that union sweet
Where fair convex and concave meet;
And while, quick shifting as you stray,
The vivid scenes on fancy play,
The lawn, of aspect smooth and mild,
The forest ground, grotesque and wild,
The shrub that scents the mountain gale,
The stream rough dashing down the dale,
From rock to rock in eddies toss'd,
The distant lake in which 'tis lost,
Blue hills gay beaming through the glade,
Lone urns that solemnize the shade,
Sweet interchange of all that charms
In groves, meads, dingles, rivulets, farms &c.
If aught the fair confusion please,
With lasting health and lasting ease,
To him who form'd the blissful bow'r,
And gave thy life one tranquil hour,
Wish peace and freedom—these possess'd,
His temperate mind secures the rest.

But if thy soul such bliss despise,
Avert thy dull incurious eyes ;
Go, fix them there where gems and gold,
Improv'd by art, their power unfold;
Go, try in courtly scenes to trace
A fairer form of Nature's face ;
Go, scorn Simplicity—but know
That all our heartfelt joys below,
That all which Virtue loves to name,
Which Art consigns to lasting fame,
Which fixes Wit or Beauty's throne,
Derives its source from her alone.

ARCADIO.

TO WILLIAM SHENSTONE, ESQ.

IN HIS SICKNESS.

BY MR. WOODHOUSE.

YE flowery plains ! ye breezy woods !
Ye bowers and gay alcoves !
Ye falling streams ! ye silver floods !
Ye grottos, and ye groves !

Alas ! my heart feels no delight,
Though I your charms survey,
While he consumes in pain the night,
In languid sighs the day.

The flowers disclose a thousand blooms,
A thousand scents diffuse ;
Yet all in vain they shed perfumes,
In vain display their hues.

Restrain, ye flowers ! your thoughtless pride,
Recline your gaudy heads,
And, sadly drooping, side by side,
Embrace your humid beds.

Tall oaks ! that o'er the woodland shade
Your lofty summits rear,
Ah ! why, in wonted charms array'd,
Expand your leaves so fair !

For, lo ! the flowers as gaily smile,
As wanton waves the tree ;
And though I sadly plain the while,
Yet they regard not me.

Ah! should the Fates an arrow send,
And strike the fatal wound;
Who, who shall then your sweets defend,
Or fence your beauties round?

But hark! perhaps the plamy throng
Have learn'd my plaintive tale,
And some sad dirge, or mournful song,
Comes floating in the gale.

Ah, no! they chant a sprightly strain
To soothe an amorous mate,
Unmindful of my anxious pain,
And his uncertain fate.

But see! these little murmuring rills
With fond repinings rove,
And trickle wailing down the hills,
Or weep along the grove.

Oh! mock not if, beside your stream,
You hear me, too, repine;
Or aid with sighs your mournful theme,
And fondly call him mine.

Ye envious winds! the cause display,
In whispers as ye blow;
Why did your treacherous gales convey
The poison'd shafts of woe?

Did he not plant the shady bower,
Where you so blithely meet?
The scented shrub, and fragrant flower,
To make your breezes sweet?

And must he leave the wood, the field,
 The dear Arcadian reign?
 Can neither verse nor virtue shield
 The guardian of the plain?

Must he his tuneful breath resign,
 Whom all the Muses love?
 That round his brow their laurels twine,
 And all his songs approve.

Preserve him, mild Omnipotence!
 Our Father, King, and God!
 Who clear'st the paths of life and sense,
 Or stop'st them at thy nod.

Bless'd Power! who calm'st the raging deep,
 His valued health restore;
 Nor let the sons of genius weep,
 Nor let the good deplore.

But if thy boundless wisdom knows
 His longer date an ill;
 Let not my soul a wish disclose
 To contradict thy will.

For happy, happy were the change,
 For such a godlike mind,
 To go where kindred spirits range,
 Nor leave a wish behind.

And though to share his pleasures here
 Kings might their state forego,
 Yet must he feel such raptures there
 As none can taste below.

VERSES

LEFT ON A SEAT.

O EARTH! to his remains indulgent be,
Who so much care and cost bestow'd on thee ;
Who crown'd thy barren hills with useful shade,
And cheer'd with tinkling rills each silent glade ;
Here taught the day to wear a thoughtful gloom,
And there enliven'd Nature's vernal bloom.
Propitious Earth ! lie lightly on his head,
And ever on his tomb thy vernal glories spread !

CORYDON, A PASTORAL.

TO THE MEMORY OF WILLIAM SHENSTONE, ESQ.

BY CUNNINGHAM.

COME, shepherds ! we'll follow the herse,
And see our lov'd Corydon laid ;
Though sorrow may blemish the verse,
Yet let the sad tribute be paid.
They call'd him the pride of the plain !
In sooth he was gentle and kind ;
He mark'd in his elegant strain
The graces that glow'd in his mind.

On purpose he planted yon' trees,
That birds in the covert might dwell ;
He cultur'd his thyme for the bees,
But never would rifle their cell.

Ye lambkins ! that play'd at his feet,
 Go bleat—and your master bemoan :
 His music was artless and sweet,
 His manners as mild as your own.

No verdure shall cover the vale,
 No bloom on the blossoms appear ;
 The sweets of the forest shall fail,
 And winter discolour the year.
 No birds in our hedges shall sing,
 (Our hedges, so vocal before)
 Since he that should welcome the Spring
 Can greet the gay season no more.

His Phyllis was fond of his praise,
 And poets came round in a throng ;
 They listen'd, and envied his lays,
 But which of them equall'd his song ?
 Ye shepherds ! henceforward be mute,
 For lost is the pastoral strain ;
 So give me my Corydon's flute,
 And thus— let me break it in twain.

FROM

TICKELL'S WREATH OF FASHION.

—LET vanquish'd Nature mourn
 Her lost simplicity o'er Shenstone's urn ;
 With sympathetic sorrows on his tomb
 Let the pale primrose shed its wild perfume,

The cowslip droop its head; and all around
The withering violet strew the hallow'd ground;
For mute the swain, and cold the hand that wove
Their simple sweets to wreaths of artless love.
Simplicity with Shenstone died!—

FROM

PRATT'S TEARS OF GENIUS.

FULL gentle and sweet was the note
That flow'd from his delicate heart;
Simplicity smil'd as he wrote,
And Nature was polish'd by art.

Now unseen let the' eglantine blow,
Unheeded the hyacinth lie;
Unheard let the rivulets flow,
Let the primroses flourish and die—

For the swain who should crop them is gone;
He sung, and all Nature admir'd;
He spoke—and all hearts were his own;
He fell—and all pity expir'd.

ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE READER.

TO this edition is subjoined (for the sake of those readers to whom it may not prove unwelcome) an explanation, or rather, in most places, a liberal imitation, of all the Latin inscriptions and quotations throughout this work by Mr. Hull. That gentleman's well-known friendship for Mr. Shenstone, and willingness to oblige, being his sole inducements to this (as he chooses to have it called) trifling addition; the editor thinks it no more than a just return of gratitude to let his purchasers know to whom they are beholden for it. Be it remembered, however, that it was executed in a country retirement, where our eminent translators of the classics were not at hand to be consulted.

A

DESCRIPTION OF THE LEASOWES¹.

BY ROBERT DODSLEY.

THE Leasowes is situate in the parish of Hales Owen, a small market town in the county of Salop, but surrounded by other counties, and thirty miles from Shrewsbury, as it is near ten to the borders of Shropshire. Though a paternal estate, it was never distinguished for any peculiar beauties till the time of its late owner. It was reserved for a person of his ingenuity both to discover and improve them, which he has done so effectually, that it is now considered as amongst the principal of those delightful scenes which persons of taste, in the present age, are desirous to see. Far from violating its natural beauties, Mr. Shenstone's only study was to give them their full effect; and although the form in which things now appear, be indeed the consequence of much thought and labour, yet the hand of Art is no way visible either in the shape of ground, the disposition of trees, or (which are here so numerous and striking) the romantic fall of his cascades.

But I will now proceed to a more particular description. About half a mile short of Hales Owen, in your way from Birmingham to Bewdley, you

¹ This Description was intended to give a friend some idea of the Leasowes—which having been so justly admired by persons of the best taste, and celebrated by the Muse of such an original genius as Mr. Shenstone, it is hoped the public will not be displeased with this slight attempt to perpetuate those beauties, which time or the different taste of some future possessor may destroy.

quit the great road, and turn into a green lane on the left hand, where descending in a winding manner to the bottom of a deep valley finely shaded, the first object that occurs is a kind of ruined wall, and a small gate within an arch, inscribed, ‘The Priory Gate.’ Here, it seems, the company should properly begin their walk, but generally choose to go up with their horses or equipage to the house, from whence returning, they descend back into the valley. Passing through a small gate at the bottom of the fine swelling lawn that surrounds the house, you enter upon a winding path, with a piece of water on your right. The path and water, overshadowed with trees that grow upon the slopes of this narrow dingle, render the scene at once cool, gloomy, solemn, and sequestered, and form so striking a contrast to the lively scene you have just left, that you seem all at once landed in a subterraneous kind of region. Winding forward down the valley, you pass beside a small reot-house, where, on a tablet, are these lines :

‘ Here in cool grot and mossy cell,
We rural Fays and Faeries dwell;
Though rarely seen by mortal eye,
When the pale moon, ascending high,
Darts through you lines her quivering beams,
We frisk it near these crystal streams.

‘ Her beams, reflected from the wave,
Afford the light our revels crave;
The turf, with daisies broder'd o'er,
Exceeds, we wot, the Parian floor;
Nor yet for artful strains we call,
But listen to the water's fall.

‘ Would you then taste our tranquil scene,
Be sure your bosoms be serene,

Devoid of hate, devoid of strife,
Devoid of all that poisons life;
And much it 'vails you in their place
To graft the love of human race.

' And tread with awe these favour'd bowers,
Nor wound the shrubs, nor bruise the flowers;
So may your path with sweets abound,
So may your couch with rest be crown'd!
But harm betide the wayward swain
Who dares our hallow'd haunts profane!'

These sentiments correspond as well as possible with the ideas we form of the abode of Fairies; and, appearing deep in this romantic valley, serve to keep alive such enthusiastic images while this sort of scene continues.

You now pass through 'The Priory Gate' before mentioned, and are admitted into a part of the valley somewhat different from the former; tall trees, high irregular ground, and rugged scars. The right presents you with perhaps the most natural, if not the most striking, of the many cascades here found; the left with a sloping grove of oaks; and the centre with a pretty circular landscape appearing through the trees, of which Hales Owen steeple, and other objects at a distance, form an interesting part. The seat beneath the ruined wall has these lines of Virgil inscribed, suiting well with the general tenor of Mr. Shenstone's late situation :

— 'Lucis habitamus opacis,
Riparumque toros et prata recentia rivis
Incolimus *.'

You now proceed a few paces down the valley

* IMITATION.

— We dwell in shady groves.
And seek the groves with cooling streams refresh'd,
And trace the verdant banks.

to another bench, where you have this cascade in front, which, together with the internal arch and other appendages, make a pretty irregular picture. I must observe, once for all, that a number of these *pro tempore* benches (two stumps with a transverse board) seem chiefly intended as hints to spectators, lest in passing cursorily through the farm they might suffer any of that immense variety the place furnishes to escape their notice. The stream attending us, with its agreeable murmurs, as we descend along this pleasing valley, we come next to a small seat, where we have a sloping grove upon the right, and on the left a striking vista to the steeple of Hales Owen, which is here seen in a new light. We now descend further down this shady and sequestered valley, accompanied on the right by the same brawling rivulet running over pebbles, till it empties itself into a fine piece of water at the bottom. The path here winding to the left conforms to the water before mentioned, running round the foot of a small hill, and accompanying this semicircular lake into another winding valley, somewhat more open, and not less pleasing than the former: however, before we enter this, it will be proper to mention a seat about the centre of this water-scene, where the ends of it are lost in the two vallies on each side, and in front it is invisibly connected with another piece of water, of about twenty acres, open to Mr. Shenstone, but not his property. This last was a performance of the monks, and part of a prodigious chain of fish-ponds that belonged to Hales Abbey. The back ground of this scene is very beautiful, and exhibits a picture of villages and varied ground finely held up to the eye.

I speak of all this as already finished; but through some misfortune in the mound that pounds up the water, it is not completed.

We now leave 'The Priory' upon the left, which is not meant for an object here, and wind along into the other valley: and here I cannot but take notice of the judgment which formed this piece of water; for although it be not very large, yet, as it is formed by the concurrence of three vallies, in which two of the ends are hid, and in the third it seems to join with the large extent of water below, it is, to all appearance, unbounded. I must confess I never saw a more natural bed for water, or any kind of lake that pleased me better; but it may be right to mention, that this water, in its full extent, has a yet more important effect from Mr. Shenstone's house, where it is seen to a great advantage. We now, by a pleasing serpentine walk, enter a narrow glade in the valley, the slopes on each side finely covered with oaks and beeches, on the left of which is a common bench, which affords a retiring place secluded from every eye, and a short respite, during which the eye reposes on a fine amphitheatre of wood and thicket.

We now proceed to a seat beneath a prodigiously fine canopy of spreading oak, on the back of which is this inscription:

'Huc ades, O Melibœ! caper tibi salvis et hoedi;
Et si quid cessare potes, requiesce sub umbra³.'

The picture before it, is that of a beautiful home-

³IMITATION.

Hither, O Melibœus! bend thy way;
Thy herds, thy goats, secure from harm, repose;
If happy leisure serve a while to stay,
Here rest thy limbs beneath these shady boughs.

scene; a small lawn of well-varied ground, encompassed with hills and well-grown oaks, and embellished with a cast of the piping Faunus, amid trees and shrubs on a slope upon the left, and on the right, and nearer the eye, with an urn thus inscribed:

*'Ingenio et amicitiae
Guilleimi Somervile.'*

And on the opposite side,

*'G. S. posuit,
Debita spargens lacrima favillam
Vatis amici.'*

The scene is inclosed on all sides by trees: in the middle only there is an opening, where the lawn is continued, and winds out of sight.

Here entering a gate, you are led through a thicket of many sorts of willows, into a large root-house, inscribed to the Right Honourable the Earl of Stamford. It seems that worthy peer was present at the first opening of the cascade, which is the principal object from the root-house, where the eye is presented with a fairy vision, consisting of an irregular and romantic fall of water, very unusual, one hundred and fifty yards in continuity; and a very striking scene it affords. Other cascades may possibly have the advantage of a greater

TRANSLATION.

To the genius and friendship
of
WILLIAM SOMERVILE,
By W. S.
Sprinkling the ashes of a friendly bard
With tributary tears.

descent and a larger torrent; but a more wild and romantic appearance of water, and at the same time strictly natural, is what I never saw in any place whatever. This scene, though comparatively small, is yet aggrandized with so much art, that we forget the quantity of water which flows through this close and overshadowed valley; and are so much transported with the intricacy of scene, and the concealed height from whence it flows, that we, without reflection, add the idea of magnificence to that of beauty. In short, it is not but upon reflection that we find the stream is not a Niagara, but rather a water-fall in miniature; and that the same artifice, upon a larger scale, were there large trees instead of small ones, and a river instead of a rill, would be capable of forming a scene that would exceed the utmost of our ideas. But I will not dwell longer upon this inimitable scene; those who would admire it properly must view it, as surely as those that view it must admire it beyond almost any thing they ever saw.

Proceeding on the right-hand path, the next seat affords a scene of what Mr. Shenstone used to call his Forest-ground, consisting of wild green slopes peeping through dingle, or irregular groups of trees, a confused mixture of savage and cultivated ground, held up to the eye, and forming a landscape fit for the pencil of Salvator Rosa.

Winding on beside this lawn, which is overarched with spreading trees, the eye catches, at intervals, over an intermediate hill, the spire of Hales church, forming here a perfect obelisk—the urn to Mr. Somerville, &c.; and now passing

through a kind of thicket, we arrive at a natural bower of almost circular oaks, inscribed in the manner following:

' TO MR. DODSLEY.

Come then, my friend! thy silvan taste display;
 Come, hear thy Faunus tune his rustic lay:
 Ah! rather come, and in these dells disown
 The care of other strains, and tune thine own.'

On the bank above it, amid the fore-mentioned shrubs, is a statue of the piping Faun, which not only embellishes this scene, but is also seen from the court before the house, and from other places: it is surrounded by venerable oaks, and very happily situated. From this bower also you look down upon the fore-mentioned irregular ground, shut up with trees on all sides, except some few openings to the more pleasing parts of this grotesque and hilly country. The next little bench affords the first, but not most striking view of 'The Priory.' It is indeed a small building, but seen as it is beneath trees, and its extremity also hid by the same, it has in some sort the dignity and solemn appearance of a larger edifice.

Passing through a gate, we enter a small open grove, where the first seat we find, affords a picturesque view, through trees, of a clump of oaks at a distance, overshadowing a little cottage upon a green hill: we thence immediately enter a perfect dome or circular temple of magnificent beeches, in the centre of which it was intended to place an antique altar, or a statue of Pan. The path serpentizing through this open grove, leads us by an easy ascent to a small bench with this motto,

— ‘ Me gelidum nemus
Nymphaeumque leves cum satyris chorū
Secernant populo.’
HOR.

which alludes to the retired situation of the grove. There is also seen, through an opening to the left, a pleasing landscape of a distant hill, with a whitened farm-house upon the summit; and to the right hand a beautiful round slope, crowned with a clump of large firs, with a pyramidal seat on its centre; to which, after no long walk, the path conducts us.

But we first come to another view of ‘ The Priory,’ more advantageous, and at a better distance; to which the eye is led down a green slope, through a scenery of tall oaks, in a most agreeable manner; the grove we have just passed on one side, and a hill of trees and thicket on the other, conducting the eye to a narrow opening through which it appears.

We now ascend to a small bench, where the circumjacent country begins to open: in particular, a glass-house appears between two large clumps of trees, at about the distance of four miles; the glass-houses in this country not ill resembling a distant pyramid. Ascending to the next seat, which is in the Gothic form, the scene grows more and more extended; woods and lawns, hills and vallies, thicket and plain, agreeably intermingled. On the back of this seat is the following inscription, which the Author told me that he chose to

* EXPLANATION.

— May the cool grove,
And gay assembled nymphs with silvans mix’d,
Conceal me from the world!

fix here, to supply what he thought some want of life in this part of the farm, and to keep up the spectator's attention till he came to scale the hill beyond.

INSCRIPTION.

' Shepherd, wouldest thou here obtain
Pleasure unalloy'd with pain;
Joy that suits the rural sphere?
Gentle shepherd! lend an ear.

' Learn to relish calm delight,
Verdant vales and fountains bright,
Trees that nod on sloping hills,
Caves that echo tinkling rills.

' If thou canst no charm disclose
In the simplest bud that blows,
Go, forsake thy plain and fold,
Join the crowd, and toll for gold.

' Tranquil pleasures never cloy;
Banish each tumultuous joy;
All but love—for love inspires
Fonder wishes, warmer fires.

' Love and all its joys be thine—
Yet ere thou the reins resign,
Hear what reason seems to say,
Hear attentive, and obey :—

' Crimson leaves the rose adorn,
But beneath them lurks a thorn;
Fair and flowery is the brake,
Yet it hides the vengeful snake.

' Think not she, whose empty pride
Dares the fleecy garb deride;
Think not she who, light and vain,
Scorns the sheep can love the swain,

' Artless deed and simple dress
Mark the chosen shepherdess;
Thoughts by decency contrall'd,
Well conceiv'd, and freely told :

' Sense, that shuns each conscious air,
Wit, that falls ere well aware;
Generous pity, prone to sigh,
If her kid or lambkin die.'

' Let not lucre, let not pride,
Draw thee from such charms aside;
Have not those their proper sphere?
Gentler passions triumph here.'

' See! to sweeten thy repose,
The blossom buds, the fountain flows;
Lo! to crown thy healthful board,
All that milk and fruits afford.'

' Seek no more—the rest is vain :
Pleasure ending soon in pain;
Anguish lightly gilded o'er:
Close thy wish, and seek no more.'

And now, passing through a wicket, the path winds up the back part of a circular green hill, discovering little of the country till you enter a clump of stately firs upon the summit. Overarched by these firs is an octagonal seat, the back of which is so contrived as to form a table or pedestal for a bowl or goblet, thus inscribed—

' To all friends round the Wrekin!'

This facetious inscription, being an old Shropshire health, is a commemoration of his country friends, from which this part of Shropshire is divided: add to this that the Wrekin, that large and venerable hill, appears full in front, at the distance of about thirty miles.

This scene is a very fine one, divided by the firs into several compartments, each answering to the octagonal seat in the centre; to each of which is allotted a competent number of striking objects to

make a complete picture. A long serpentine stream washes the foot of this hill, and is lost behind trees at one end, and a bridge thrown over at the other. Over this the eye is carried from very romantic home-scenes to very beautiful ones at a distance. It is impossible to give an idea of that immense variety, that fine configuration of parts, which engage our attention from this place. In one of the compartments you have a simple scene of a cottage, and a road winding behind a farm-house half covered with trees, upon the top of some wild sloping ground; and in another a view of the town, appearing from hence as upon the shelving banks of a large piece of water in the flat. Suffice it to say, that the hill and vale, plain and woodland, villages and single houses, blue distant mountains that skirt the horizon, and green hills romantically jumbled, that form the intermediate ground, make this spot more than commonly striking—nor is there to be seen an acre of level ground through the large extent to which the eye is carried.

Hence the path winds on betwixt two small benches, each of which exhibits a pleasing landscape, which cannot escape the eye of a connoisseur.

Here we wind through a small thicket, and soon enter a cavity in the hill, filled with trees, in the centre of which is a seat, from whence is discovered, gleaming across the trees, a considerable length of the serpentine stream before mentioned, running under a slight rustic bridge to the right; hence we ascend in a kind of Gothic alcove, looking down a slope, sided with large oaks and tall beeches, which

together overarch the scene. On the back of this building is found the following

INSCRIPTION.

- ' O you that bathe in courtlye blysse,
 Or toyle in Fortune's giddy spherare,
 Do not too rashlye deeme amysse
 Of hym, that bynes contented here.
- ' Nor yet disdeigne the russet stoale
 Which o'er each carelesse lymbe he flyngs;
 Nor yet deryde the beechen bowle
 In whyche he quaffs the lympid springs.
- ' Forgive him, if at eve or dawne,
 Devoide of worldye cark, he stray,
 Or all beside some flowerye lawne
 He waste his inoffensive daye.
- ' So may he pardonne fraud and strife,
 If such in courtlye haunt he see;
 For faults there beene in busye life
 From whyche these peaceful glennes are free.'

Below this alcove is a large sloping lawn, finely bounded, crossed by the serpentine water before mentioned, and interspersed with single or clumps of oaks at agreeable distances. Further on the scene is finely varied, the hills rising and falling towards the opposite concavities, by the side of a long winding vale, with the most graceful confusion. Among other scenes that form this landscape, a fine hanging wood, backed and contrasted with a wild heath, intersected with cross roads, is a very considerable object. Near adjoining to this is a seat, from whence the water is seen to advantage in many different stages of its progress; or where (as a poetical friend once observed) the proprietor

has taken the Naiad by the hand, and led her an irregular dance into the valley.

Proceeding hence through a wicket, we enter upon another lawn, beyond which is a new theatre of wild shaggy precipices, hanging coppice ground, and smooth round hills between, being not only different, but even of an opposite character, to the ground from which we passed. Walking along the head of this lawn, we come to a seat under a spreading beech, with this

INSCRIPTION.

*' Hoc erat in votis: modus agri non ita magnus,
Hortus ubi, et tecto vicinus jngis aquæ fons,
Et paulum sylvae super hie foret. Auctius atque
Dii melius fecere.⁶'* —

In the centre of the hanging lawn before you is discovered the house, half hid with trees and bushes: a little hanging wood, and a piece of winding water, issues through a noble clump of large oaks and spreading beeches. At the distance of about ten or twelve miles, Lord Stamford's grounds appear; and beyond these, the Clee hills in Shropshire. The scene here consists of admirably-varied ground, and is, I think, a very fine one. Hence passing still along the top of the lawn, we cross another gate, and behind the fence begin to descend into the valley. About half way down is a small bench, which throws

IMITATION.

This was my wish—an humble spot of ground,
A garden well-dispos'd, and fenc'd around,
A bubbling fountain, to my dwelling nigh,
With crystal treasures stor'd, and never dry,
The whole defended by a modest wood—
This was my wish—my wish the gods allow'd;
And ev'n beyond that wish indulgently bestow'd.

the eye upon a near scene of hanging woods and shaggy wild declivities, intermixed with smooth green slopes and scenes of cultivation.

We now return again into the great lawn at bottom, and soon come to a seat, which gives a nearer view of the water before mentioned, between the trunks of high overshadowing oaks and beeches; beyond which the winding line of trees is continued down the valley to the right. To the left, at a distance, the top of Clent-hill appears, and the house upon a swell, amidst trees and bushes. In the centre, the eye is carried by a sideling view down a length of lawn, till it rests upon the town and spire of Hales, with some picturesque and beautiful ground rising behind it.

Somewhat out of the path, and in the centre of a noble clump of stately beeches, is a seat inscribed to Mr. Spence, in these words:

JOSEPHO SPENCE,
eximio nostro Crito;
cui dicari vellet
Musarum omnium et Gratiarum chorus,
dicat amicitia.
1758^{7.}

We now, through a small gate, enter what is called 'The Lover's Walk,' and proceed immediately to a seat where the water is seen very advantage-

7 EXPLANATION.

Dedicated by friendship
to JOSEPH SPENCE,
our most excellent Crito,
whom
the unanimous consent
of every Muse and Grace
made choice of
to be so distinguished.

ously at full length; which, though not large, is so agreeably shaped, and has its bounds so well concealed, that the beholder may receive less pleasure from many lakes of greater extent. The margin on one side is fringed with alders, the other is overhung with most stately oaks and beeches, and the middle beyond the water presents the Hales Owen scene, with a group of houses on the slope behind, and the horizon well fringed with the wood. Now winding a few paces round the margin of the water, we come to another small bench, which presents the former scene somewhat varied, with the addition of a whitened village among trees upon a hill. Proceeding on, we enter the pleasing gloom of this agreeable walk, and come to a bench beneath a spreading beech that overhangs both walk and water, which has been called 'The Assignment Seat,' and has this inscription on the back of it:

'Nerine Galatea; thymo mihi dulcior Hyblæ,
Candidior cygnis, hedera formosior alba!
Cum primam pasti repetent prasepia tauri,
Si qua tul Corydonis habet te cura, venito⁶.'

Here the path begins gradually to ascend beneath a depth of shade, by the side of which is a small bubbling rill, either forming little peninsulas, rolling over pebbles, or falling down small cascades, all under cover, and taught to murmur very agreeably. This very soft and pensive scene, very pro-

* IMITATION.

O Galatea! Nereus' lovely child,
Sweeter than Hyb'a thyme, more undefil'd
Than down of swan, or ivy's purest white,
When the full oxen, warn'd by fading light,
Hone to the stall their sober footsteps bend;
If Damon's dear, to Damon's call attend.

perly styled 'The Lover's Walk,' is terminated with an ornamented urn, inscribed to Miss Dolman, (a beautiful and amiable relation of Mr. Shenstone's,) who died of the small-pox, about twenty-one years of age, in the following words on one side :

Per amabili sue consoebrinæ
M. D.

On the other side :

Ah ! Maria !
puellarum elegantissima !
ah flore venustatis abræpta,
vale !
Hec quanto minus est
cum reliquis versari,
quam tul
metutuisse ? !

The ascent from hence winds somewhat more steeply to another seat, where the eye is thrown over a rough scene of broken and furzy ground, upon a piece of water in the flat, whose extremities are hid behind trees and shrubs, amongst which the house appears, and makes upon the whole no unpleasing picture. The path still winds under cover up the hill, the steep declivity of which is

EXPLANATION.

—Sacred to the memory
of
a most amiable kinswoman.
Ah ! Maria !
most elegant of nymphs !
snatched from us
in thy bloom of beauty,
ah ! farewell !

How much inferior
is the living conversation
of others
to the bare remembrance
of thee !

somewhat eased by the serpentine sweep of it, till we come to a small bench, with this line from Pope's Eloisa :

' Divine oblivion of low-thoughted Care!'

The opening before it presents a solitary scene of trees, thickets, and precipice, and terminates upon a green hill, with a clump of firs on the top of it.

We now find the great use as well as beauty of the serpentine path in climbing up this wood, the first seat of which, alluding to the rural scene before it, has the following lines from Virgil :

—' *Hic latis otia fundis
Speluncæ, vivique lacus, hic frigida Tempe,
Mugitusque boum, mollesque sub arbore somni*'¹⁰.

Here the eye looking down a slope beneath the spreading arms of oak and beech trees, passes first over some rough furzy ground, then over water to the large swelling lawn, in the centre of which the house is discovered among trees and thickets: this forms the fore ground. Beyond this appears a swell of waste furzy land, diversified with a cottage; and a road that winds behind a farm-house and a fine clump of trees. The back scene of all is a semicircular range of hills, diversified with woods, scenes of cultivation and inclosures, to about four or five miles' distance.

10 IMITATION.

Here tranquil leisure in the ample field,
Here caves and living lakes their pleasures yield;
Here vales invite where sports the cooling breeze,
And peaceful sleep beneath embowering trees,
While lowing herds surround.

Still winding up into the wood, we come to a slight seat, opening through the trees to a bridge of five piers, crossing a large piece of water at about half a mile's distance. The next seat looks down from a considerable height, along the side of a steep precipice, upon irregular and pleasing ground. And now we turn upon a sudden into a long straight-lined walk in the wood, arched over with tall trees, and terminating with a small rustic building. Though the walk, as I said, be straight-lined, yet the base rises and falls so agreeably, as leaves no room to censure its formality. About the middle of this avenue, which runs the whole length of this hanging wood, we arrive unexpectedly at a lofty gothic seat, whence we look down a slope, more considerable than that before mentioned, through the wood on each side. This view is indeed a fine one, the eye first travelling down over well-variegated ground into the valley, where is a large piece of water, whose sloping banks give all the appearance of a noble river. The ground from hence rises gradually to the top of Clent-Hill, at three or four miles' distance, and the landscape is enriched with a view of Hales Owen, the late Lord Dudley's house, and a large wood of Lord Lyttelton's. It is impossible to give an adequate description of this view; the beauty of it depending upon the great variety of objects and beautiful shape of ground, and all at such a distance as to admit of being seen distinctly.

Hence we proceed to the rustic building before mentioned, a slight and unexpensive edifice, formed of rough unhewn stone, commonly called here 'The

Temple of Pan,' having a trophy of the Tibia and Syrinx, and this inscription over the entrance :

'Pan primus calamos cera conjngere plures
Edocuit; Pan curat oves, oviumque magistros^{11.}'

Hence mounting once more to the right, through this dark unbrageous walk, we enter at once upon a lightsome, high, natural terrace, whence the eye is thrown over all the scenes we have seen before, together with many fine additional ones, and all beheld from a declivity that approaches as near a precipice as is agreeable. In the middle is a seat with this inscription :

Divini gloria ruris^{12!}

To give a better idea of this, by far the most magnificent scene here ; it were, perhaps, best to divide it into two distinct parts—the noble concaye in the front, and the rich valley towards the right.—In regard to the former, if a boon companion could enlarge his idea of a punch-bowl, ornamented within with all the romantic scenery the Chinese ever yet devised, it would, perhaps, afford him the highest idea he could possibly conceive of earthly happiness : he would certainly wish to swim in it. Suffice it to say, that the horizon, or brim, is as finely varied as the cavity. It would be idle here to mention the Clee Hills, the Wrekin, the Welsh mountains,

¹¹ IMITATION.

Pan, god of shepherds, first inspir'd our swains
Their pipes to frame, and tune their rural strains ;
Pan from impending harm the fold defends,
And Pan the master of the fold befriends.

¹² EXPLANATION.

O glory of the silvan scene divine !

or Caer Caradoc, at a prodigious distance: which, though they finish the scene agreeably, should not be mentioned at the Leasowes, the beauty of which turns chiefly upon distinguishable scenes. The valley upon the right is equally enriched, and the opposite side thereof well fringed with woods, and the high hills on one side this long winding vale rolling agreeably into the hollows on the other. But these are a kind of objects which, though really noble in the survey, will not strike a reader in description as they would a spectator upon the spot.

Hence returning back into the wood, and crossing 'Pan's Temple,' we go directly down the slope into another part of Mr. Shenstone's grounds, the path leading down through very pleasing homescenes of well-shaped ground, exhibiting a most perfect concave and convex, till we come at a seat under a noble beech, presenting a rich variety of fore-ground; and at, perhaps, half a mile's distance, the gothic alcove on a hill well covered with wood, a pretty cottage under trees in the more distant part of the concave, and a farm-house upon the right, all picturesque objects.

The next and the subsequent seat afford pretty much the same scenes a little enlarged, with the addition of that remarkable clump of trees, called Frankly Beeches, adjoining to the old family seat of the Lytteltons, and from whence the present Lord Lyttelton derives his title.

We come now to a handsome gothic screen, backed with a clump of firs, which throws the eye in front full upon a cascade in the valley, issuing from beneath a dark shade of poplars. The house appears in the centre of a large swelling lawn, bushed

with trees and thicket. The pleasing variety of easy swells and hollows, bounded by scenes less smooth and cultivated, affords the most delightful picture of domestic retirement and tranquillity.

We now descend to a seat inclosed with handsome pales, and backed with firs, inscribed to Lord Lyttelton. It presents a beautiful view up a valley contracted gradually, and ending in a group of most magnificent oaks and beeches. The right-hand side is enlivened with two striking cascades, and a winding stream seen at intervals between tufts of trees and woodland. To the left appears the hanging wood already mentioned, with the gothic screen on the slope in the centre.

Winding still downwards, we come to a small seat, where one of the offices of the house, and a view of a cottage on very high ground, is seen over the tops of the trees of the grove in the adjacent valley, giving an agreeable instance of the abrupt inequality of ground in this romantic well-varigated country. The next seat shows another face of the same valley, the water gliding calmly along betwixt two seeming groves without any cascade, as a contrast to the former one, where it was broken by cascades: the scene very significantly alluded to by the motto,

*‘Rura mihi, et rigni placeant in vallis amnes,
Flumina amem, silvasque inglorius’¹³!*

We descend now to a beautiful gloomy scene, called ‘Virgil’s Grove,’ where, on the entrance, we

IS IMITATION.

Woods, vales, and running streams, my mind enchant;
The woods and streams inglorious let me bount.

pass by a small obelisk on the right hand, with this inscription :

P. Virgilio Maroni
Lapis iste cum luce sacer esto¹⁴.

Before this is a slight bench, where some of the same objects are seen again, but in a different point of light. It is not very easy either to paint or describe this delightful grove: however, as the former has been more than once attempted, I will hope to apologize for an imperfect description, by the difficulty found by those who have aimed to sketch it with their pencil. Be it, therefore, first observed, that the whole scene is opaque and gloomy, consisting of a small deep valley or dingle, the sides of which are inclosed with irregular tufts of hazel and other underwood, and the whole overshadowed with lofty trees rising out of the bottom of the dingle, through which a copious stream makes its way through mossy banks, enamelled with primroses, and variety of wild wood-flowers. The first seat we approach is thus inscribed :

Celeberrimo Poetæ
IACOBO THOMSON,
Prope foutes illi non fastiditos
G. S.
Sedem hanc ornavit¹⁵.

¹⁵ EXPLA-

14 EXPLANATION.

To
P. Virgilius Maro,
This obelisk
and grove
is consecrated *.

* Note.—It was customary with the Romans to give a praenomen, or first name, in the manner of our Christian names; accordingly, Virgil had that of Publius. He derived the addition of Maro from his father, who was so called.

** Quæ tibi, quæ tali reddam pro carmine dona?
Nam neque me tantum venientis sibilus anstri,
Nec percussa jnvant fluctu tam littora, nec quæ
Saxosas inter decurrunt flumina valles^{16.}*

This seat is placed upon a steep bank on the edge of the valley, from which the eye is here drawn down into the flat below, by the light that glimmers in front, and by the sound of various cascades, by which the winding stream is agreeably broken. Opposite to this seat the ground rises again in an easy concave to a kind of dripping fountain, where a small rill trickles down a rude nich of rock-work, through fern, liverwort, and aquatic weeds; the green area in the middle, through which the stream winds, being as well shaped as can be imagined. After falling down these cascades, it winds under a bridge of one arch, and then empties itself into a small lake which catches it a little below. This terminates the scene upon the right; and after these objects have for some time amused the spectator, his eye rambles to the left, where one of the most beautiful cascades imaginable is seen, by way of

¹⁵ EXPLANATION.

To the
much celebrated Poet
JAMES THOMSON.
This seat was placed
near his favourite springs
by
W. S.

¹⁶ IMITATION.

How shall I thank thy Muse, so form'd to please?
For not the whispering of the southern breeze,
Nor banks still beaten by the breaking wave,
Nor limpid rills that pebbly vallies lave,
Yield such delight.—

incident, through a kind of vista or glade, falling down a precipice overarched with trees, and strikes us with surprise. It is impossible to express the pleasure which one feels on this occasion : for though surprise alone is not excellence, it may serve to quicken the effect of what is beautiful. I believe none ever beheld this grove without a thorough sense of satisfaction ; and were one to choose any particular spot of this perfectly Arcadian farm, it should, perhaps, be this ; although it so well contrasts both with the terrace and with some other scenes, that one cannot wish them ever to be divided. We now proceed to a seat at the bottom of a large root on the side of a slope, with this inscription :

INSCRIPTION,

' O let me haunt this peaceful shade,
Nor let Ambition e'er invade
The tenants of this leafy hower,
That shun her paths, and slight her power.

' Hither the peaceful halcyon flies
From social meads and open skies,
Pleas'd by this rill her course to steer,
And hide her sapphire plumage here.

' The trout, bedrop'd with crimson stains,
Forsakes the river's proud domains,
Forsakes the sun's unwelcome gleam,
To lurk within this humble stream.

' And sure I hear the Naiad say,
" Flow, flow, my Stream ! this devious way ;
Though lovely soft thy murmurs are,
Thy waters lovely, cool, and fair."

" Flow, gentle Stream ! nor let the vain
Thy small unsullied stores disdain ;
Nor let the pensive sage repine,
Whose latent course resembles thine."

The view from it is a calm tranquil scene of water gliding through sloping ground, with a sketch through the trees of the small pond below.

The scene in this place is that of water stealing along through a rude sequestered vale, the ground on each side covered with weeds and field flowers, as that before is kept close shaven. Further on we lose all sight of water, and only hear the noise, without having the appearance; a kind of effect which the Chinese are fond of producing in what they call their scenes of enchantment. We now turn, all on a sudden, upon the high cascade which we admired before in vista. The scene around is quite a grotto of native stone running up it, roots of trees overhanging it, and the whole shaded over head. However, we first approach, upon the left, a chalybeate spring, with an iron bowl chained to it, and this inscription upon a stone :

Fons ferrugineus
Divæ quæ secessu isto frui concedit¹⁷.

Then turning to the right, we find a stone seat, making part of the aforesaid cave, with this well-applied inscription :

Intus aquæ dulces, vivoque sedilia saxo;
Nympharum domus¹⁸.

¹⁷ EXPLANATION.

To the Goddess
who bestowed the enjoyment
of these retreats,
This chalybeate spring
is consecrated.

¹⁸ IMITATION.

Within are wholesome springs, and marble seats
Carv'd in the living rock, of Nymphs the bless'd retreats.

which I have often heard Mr. Shenstone term the definition of a grotto. We now wind up a shady path on the left hand, and crossing the head of this cascade, pass beside the river that supplies it in our way up to the house. One seat first occurs under a shady oak as we ascend the hill ; soon after we enter the shrubbery, which half surrounds the house, where we find two seats, thus inscribed to two of his most particular friends. The first thus :

Amicitiae et meritis
RICHARDI GRAVES¹⁹;

Ipsæ te, Tityre ! pinus,
Ipsi te fontes, ipsa hæc arbusta, vocabant²⁰.

and a little further the other, with the following inscription :

Amicitiae et meritis
RICHARDI JAGO²¹.

From this last is an opening down the valley over a large sliding lawn, well edged with oaks, to a piece of water crossed by a considerable bridge in the flat —the steeple of Hales, a village amid trees, making on the whole a very pleasing picture. Thus winding through flowering shrubs, beside a menagerie for doves, we are conducted to the stables. But

19 EXPLANATION.

To the
friendship and merits
of
RICHARD GRAVES.

²⁰ Thee, Tityrus ! the pines,
The crystal springs, the very groves, invok'd.

²¹ To the
friendship and merits
of
RICHARD JAGO.

let it not be forgot, that on the entrance into this shrubbery the first object that strikes us is a *Venus de Medicis*, beside a basin of gold-fish, encompassed round with shrubs, and illustrated with the following inscription :

— ‘ *Semi-reducta Venus* ²² ’

- ‘ To Venus, Venus here retir’d,
My sober vows I pay ;
Not her on Paphian plains admir’d,
The bold, the pert, the gay.
- ‘ Not her whose amorous leer prevail’d
To bribe the Phrygian boy ;
Not her who, clad in armour, fail’d
To save disastrous Troy.
- ‘ Fresh rising from the foamy tide,
She every bosom warms,
While half withdrawn she seems to hide,
And half reveals her charms.
- ‘ Learn hence, ye boastful sons of Taste !
Who plan the rural shade,
Learn hence to shun the vicious waste
Of pomp, at large display’d.
- ‘ Let sweet Concealment’s magic art
Your mazy bounds invest,
And while the sight unveils a part,
Let Fancy paint the rest.
- ‘ Let coy reserve with cost unite
To grace your wood or field ;
No ray obtrusive pall the sight,
In aught you paint or build.
- ‘ And far be driven the sumptuous glare
Of gold, from British groves,
And far the meretricious air
Of China’s vain alcoves.
- ‘ ‘Tis bashful Beauty ever twines
The most coercive chain ;
‘ ‘Tis she that sovereign rule declines,
Who best deserves to reign.’

²² EXPLANATION.
Venus half-retired.

A PREFATORY ESSAY ON ELEGY.

BY WILLIAM SHENSTONE.

IT is observable that discourses prefixed to poetry are contrived very frequently to inculcate such tenets as may exhibit the performance to the greatest advantage: the fabric is very commonly raised in the first place, and the measures by which we are to judge of its merit are afterwards adjusted.

There have been few rules given us by the critics concerning the structure of Elegiac poetry; and far be it from the author of the following trifles to dignify his own opinions with that denomination: he would only intimate the great variety of subjects, and the different styles in which the writers of Elegy have hitherto indulged themselves, and endeavour to shield the following ones by the latitude of their example.

If we consider the etymology of the word¹, the epithet which Horace gives it², or the confession which Ovid makes concerning it³, I think we may conclude thus much however, that Elegy, in its true and genuine acceptation, includes a tender and querulous idea; that it looks upon this as its peculiar characteristic, and so long as this is thoroughly sustained, admits of a variety of subjects,

¹ *ελεύθερος, εἰς-particulam dolendi.*

² *Miserabiles elegos.*

Hor.

³ *Heu nimis ex vero nunc tibi nomen erit.*

Ovid. de Morte Tibulli.

which by its manner of treating them it renders its own : it throws its melancholy stole over pretty different objects, which, like the dresses at a funeral procession, gives them all a kind of solemn and uniform appearance.

It is probable that Elegies were written, at first, upon the death of intimate friends and near relations ; celebrated beauties, or favourite mistresses ; beneficent governors and illustrious men : one may add, perhaps, of all those who are placed by Virgil in the laurel grove of his Elysium, (*Vide Hurd's Dissertation on Horace's Epistle*)

Quique sui memores alios fecere merendo.

After these subjects were sufficiently exhausted, and the severity of fate displayed in the most affecting instances, the poets sought occasion to vary their complaints, and the next tender species of sorrow that presented itself was the grief of absent or neglected lovers ; and this indulgence might be indeed allowed them, but with this they were not contented: they had obtained a small corner in the province of love, and they took advantage, from thence, to overrun the whole territory : they sung its spoils, triumphs, ovations, and rejoicings [†], as well as the captivity and exequies that attended it : they gave the name of Elegy to their pleasures as well as lamentations ; till at last, through their abundant fondness for the myrtle, they forgot that the cypress was their peculiar garland.

In this it is probable they deviated from the original design of Elegy ; and it should seem that

[†] *Dicite Io Pæan, et Io bis dicite Pæan.* *Ovid.*

any kind of subjects, treated in such a manner as to diffuse a pleasing melancholy, might far better deserve the name, than the facetious mirth and libertine festivity of the successful votaries of Love.

But not to dwell too long upon an opinion which may seem, perhaps, introduced to favour the following performance, it may not be improper to examine into the use and end of Elegy. The most important end of all poetry is to encourage virtue. Epic and tragedy chiefly recommend the public virtues; Elegy is of a species which illustrates and endears the private. There is a truly virtuous pleasure connected with many pensive contemplations, which it is the province and excellency of Elegy to enforce: this, by presenting suitable ideas, has discovered sweets in melancholy which we could not find in mirth; and has led us, with success, to the dusty urn, when we could draw no pleasure from the sparkling bowl. As Pastoral conveys an idea of simplicity and innocence, it is in particular the task and merit of Elegy to show the innocence and simplicity of rural life to advantage; and that in a way distinct from Pastoral, as much as the plain but judicious landlord may be imagined to surpass his tenant both in dignity and understanding. It should also tend to elevate the more tranquil virtues of humility, disinterestedness, simplicity, and innocence: but then there is a degree of elegance and refinement no way inconsistent with these rural virtues, and that raises Elegy above that *merum rus*, that unpolished rusticity, which has given our Pastoral writers their highest reputation.

Wealth and splendor will never want their proper weight ; the danger is, lest they should too much preponderate : a kind of poetry, therefore, which throws its chief influence into the other scale, that magnifies the sweets of liberty and independence, that endears the honest delights of love and friendship, that celebrates the glory of a good name after death, that ridicules the futile arrogance of birth, that recommends the innocent amusement of letters, and insensibly prepares the mind for that humanity it inculcates : such a kind of poetry may chance to please, and if it please, should seem to be of service.

As to the style of Elegy, it may be well enough determined from what has gone before ; it should imitate the voice and language of grief ; or, if a metaphor of dress be more agreeable, it should be simple and diffuse, and flowing as a mourner's veil. A versification, therefore, is desirable, which, by indulging a free and unconstrained expression, may admit of that simplicity which Elegy requires.

Heroic metre, with alternate rhyme, seems well enough adapted to this species of poetry ; and, however exceptionable upon other occasions, its inconveniences appear to lose their weight in shorter Elegies, and its advantages seem to acquire an additional importance. The world has an admirable example of its beauty in a collection of Elegies⁴ not long since published ; the product of a gentleman of the most exact taste, and whose untimely death merits all the tears that Elegy can shed.

⁴ By Hammond.

It is not impossible that some may think this metre too lax and prosaic ; others, that even a more dissolute variety of numbers may have superior advantages : and in favour of these last, might be produced the example of Milton in his *Lycidas*, together with one or two recent and beautiful imitations of his versification in that monody. But this kind of argument, I am apt to think, must prove too much ; since the writers I have in view seem capable enough of recommending any metre they shall choose ; though it must be owned also, that the choice they make of any is at the same time the strongest presumption in its favour.

Perhaps it may be no great difficulty to compromise the dispute. There is no one kind of metre that is distinguished by rhymes but is liable to some objection or other. Heroic verse, where every second line is terminated by a rhyme, (with which the judgment requires that the sense should in some measure also terminate) is apt to render the expression either scanty or constrained ; and this is sometimes observable in the writings of a poet lately deceased ; though I believe no one ever threw so much sense together, with so much ease, into a couplet, as Mr. Pope : but as an air of constraint too often accompanies this metre, it seems by no means proper for a writer of Elegy.

The previous rhyme in Milton's *Lycidas* is very frequently placed at such a distance from the following, that it is often dropt by the memory (much better employed in attending to the sentiment) before it be brought to join its partner ; and this seems to be the greatest objection to that kind of versification : but then the peculiar ease and va-

riety it admits of are, no doubt, sufficient to overbalance the objection, and to give it the preference to any other, in an Elegy of length.

The chief exception, to which stanza of all kinds is liable, is, that it breaks the sense too regularly when it is continued through a long poem; and this may be, perhaps, the fault of Mr. Waller's excellent panegyric. But if this fault be less discernible in smaller compositions, as I suppose it is; I flatter myself that the advantages I have before mentioned, resulting from alternate rhyme, (with which stanza is, I think, connected) may at least, in shorter Elegies, be allowed to outweigh its imperfections.

I shall say but little of the different kinds of Elegy. The melancholy of a lover is different, no doubt, from what we feel on other mixed occasions. The mind, in which love and grief at once predominate, is softened to an excess. Love-elegy, therefore, is more negligent of order and design, and being addressed chiefly to the ladies, requires little more than tenderness and perspicuity. Elegies that are formed upon promiscuous incidents, and addressed to the world in general, inculcate some sort of moral, and admit a different degree of reasoning, thought, and order.

The Author of the following Elegies entered on his subjects occasionally, as particular incidents in life suggested, or dispositions of mind recommended them to his choice. If he describes a rural landscape or unfolds the train of sentiments it inspired, he fairly drew his picture from the spot; and felt very sensibly the affection he communicates: if he speaks of his humble shed, his flocks,

and his fleeces, he does not counterfeit the scene ; who having (whether through choice or necessity is not material) retired betimes to country solitudes, and sought his happiness in rural employments, has a right to consider himself as a real shepherd. The flocks, the meadows, and the grottos, are his own, and the embellishment of his farm his sole amusement. As the sentiments, therefore, were inspired by Nature, and that in the earlier part of his life, he hopes they will retain a natural appearance ; diffusing at least some part of that amusement which he freely acknowledges he received from the composition of them.

There will appear, perhaps, a real inconsistency in the moral tenor of the several Elegies ; and the subsequent ones may sometimes seem a recantation of the preceding. The reader will scarcely impute this to oversight, but will allow that men's opinions, as well as tempers, vary ; that neither public nor private, active nor speculative life, are unexceptionably happy ; and consequently, that any change of opinion concerning them may afford an additional beauty to poetry, as it gives us a more striking representation of life.

If the Author has hazarded, throughout, the use of English or modern allusions, he hopes it will not be imputed to an entire ignorance, or to the least disesteem of the ancient learning. He has kept the ancient plan and method in his eye, though he builds his edifice with the materials of his own nation. In other words, through a fondness for his native country, he has made use of the flowers it produced, though, in order to exhibit them to the greater advantage, he has endeavoured to

weave his garland by the best model he could find ; with what success, beyond his own amusement, must be left to judges less partial to him than either his acquaintance or his friends.—If any of those should be so candid as to approve the variety of subjects he has chosen, and the tenderness of sentiment he has endeavoured to impress, he begs the metre also may not be too suddenly condemned. The public ear, habituated of late to a quicker measure, may perhaps consider this as heavy and languid ; but an objection of that kind may gradually lose its force, if this measure should be allowed to suit the nature of Elegy.

If it should happen to be considered as an objection with others, that there is too much of a moral cast diffused through the whole ; it is replied, that he endeavoured to animate the poetry so far as not to render this objection too obvious, or to risk excluding the fashionable reader ; at the same time never deviating from a fixed principle, that poetry without morality is but the blossom of a fruit-tree. Poetry is indeed like that species of plants which may bear at once both fruits and blossoms ; and the tree is by no means in perfection without the former, however it may be embellished by the flowers which surround it.

ELEGIES, ON DIFFERENT OCCASIONS.

Tantum inter densas, umbrosa cacumina, fagos
Assidue veniebat ; ibi haec incondita, solus,
Montibus et silvis studio jactabat inani ! VIRG.

The spreading beech alone he would explore
With frequent step ; beneath its shady top,
(Ah, profitless employ !) to hills and groves
These indigested lays he wont repeat.

HE ARRIVES AT HIS RETIREMENT IN THE COUNTRY, AND TAKES OCCASION TO EXPATIATE IN PRAISE OF SIMPLICITY..

TO A FRIEND.

FOR rural virtues, and for native skies,
I bade Augusta's venal sons farewell ;
Now mid the trees I see my smoke arise,
Now hear the fountains bubbling round my cell.

O may that Genius which secures my rest,
Preserve this villa for a friend that's dear !
Ne'er may my vintage glad the sordid breast,
Ne'er tinge the lip that dares be unsincere !

Far from these paths, ye faithless friends ! depart ?
Fly my plain board, abhor my hostile name !
Hence, the faint verse that flows not from the heart,
But mourns in labour'd strains, the price of fame !

O lov'd Simplicity ! be thine the prize !
 Assiduous Art, correct her page in vain !
 His be the palm, who, guiltless of disguise,
 Contemns the power, the dull resource, to feign !

Still may the mourner, lavish of his tears,
 For lucre's venal meed invite my scorn !

Still may the bard, dissembling doubts and fears,
 For praise, for flattery sighing, sigh forlorn !

Soft as the line of love-sick Hammond flows,
 'Twas his fond heart effus'd the melting theme ;
 Ah ! never could Aonia's hill disclose
 So fair a fountain, or so lov'd a stream.

Ye loveless bards ! intent with artful pains
 To form a sigh, or to contrive a tear !

Forego your Pindus, and on —— plains
 Survey Camilla's charms, and grow sincere.

But thou, my friend ! while in thy youthful soul
 Love's gentle tyrant seats his awful throne,
 Write from thy bosom—let not Art control
 The ready pen that makes his edicts known.

Pleasing when youth is long expir'd, to trace
 The forms our pencil or our pen design'd !

' Such was our youthful air, and shape, and face !
 Such the soft image of our youthful mind !

Soft whilst we sleep beneath the rural bow'r's,
 The Loves and Graces steal unseen away !

And where the turf diffus'd its pomp of flow'r's,
 We wake to wintry scenes of chill decay !

Curse the sad fortune that detains thy fair ;
 Praise the soft hours that gave thee to her arms ;
 Paint thy proud scorn of every vulgar care,
 When hope exalts thee, or when doubt alarms.

Where with Cenone thou hast worn the day,
 Near fount or stream, in meditation, rove ;
 If in the grove Cenone lov'd to stray,
 The faithful Muse shall meet thee in the grove.

ON POSTHUMOUS REPUTATION.

TO A FRIEND.

O GRIEF of griefs ! that Envy's frantic ire
 Should rob the living virtue of its praise ;
 O foolish Muses ! that with zeal aspire
 To deck the cold insensate shrine with bays.
 When the free spirit quits her humble frame,
 To tread the skies with radiant garlands crown'd ;
 Say, will she hear the distant voice of Fame ?
 Or, hearing, fancy sweetness in the sound ?
 Perhaps ev'n Genius pours a slighted lay ;
 Perhaps ev'n Friendship sheds a fruitless tear ;
 Ev'n Lyttelton but vainly trims the bay,
 And fondly graces Hammond's mournful bier.
 Though weeping virgins haunt his favour'd urn,
 Renew their chaplets and repeat their sighs ;
 Though near his tomb Sabæan odours burn,
 The loitering fragrance will it reach the skies ?
 No ; should his Delia votive wreaths prepare,
 Delia might place the votive wreaths in vain ;
 Yet the dear hope of Delia's future care
 Once crown'd his pleasures and dispell'd his pain.
 Yes—the fair prospect of surviving praise,
 Can every sense of present joys excel ;
 For this great Hadrian chose laborious days,
 Through this, expiring, bade a gay farewell.

Shall then our youths, who Fame's bright fabric raise,
 To life's precarious date confine their care?
O teach them you, to spread the sacred base,
 To plan a work through latest ages fair?
 Is it small transport, as with curious eye
 You trace the story of each Attic sage,
 To think your blooming praise shall time defy?
 Shall waft, like odours, through the pleasing page?
 To mark the day when, through the bulky tome,
 Around your name the varying style refines?
 And readers call their lost attention home,
 Led by that index where true genius shines?
 Ah! let not Britons doubt their social aim,
 Whose ardent bosoms catch this ancient fire;
 Cold interest melts before the vivid flame,
 And patriot ardors but with life expire.

ON THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF A CERTAIN
 LEARNED ACQUAINTANCE.

If proud Pygmalion quit this cumbrous frame,
 Funereal pomp the scanty tear supplies,
 Whilst heralds loud, with venal voice, proclaim,
 'Lo! here the brave and the puissant lies.'
 When humbler Alcon leaves his drooping friends,
 Pageant nor plume distinguish Alcon's bier;
 The faithful Muse with votive song attends,
 And blots the mournful numbers with a tear.
 He little knew the sly penurious art,
 That odious art which Fortune's favourites know;
 Form'd to bestow, he felt the warmest heart,
 But envious Fate forbade him to bestow.

He little knew to ward the secret wound ;
 He little knew that mortals could ensnare ;
 Virtue he knew ; the noblest joy he found,
 To sing her glories, and to paint her fair !

Ill was he skill'd to guide his wandering sheep,
 And unforeseen disaster thinn'd his fold ;
 Yet at another's loss the swain would weep,
 And for his friend his very crook was sold.

Ye sons of wealth ! protect the Muses' train ;
 From winds protect them, and with food supply ;
 Ah ! helpless they, to ward the threaten'd pain,
 The meagre famine, and the wintry sky !

He lov'd a nymph ; amidst his slender store
 He dar'd to love ; and Cynthia was his theme :
 He breath'd his plaints along the rocky shore,
 They only echo'd o'er the winding stream.

His nymph was fair ! the sweetest bud that blows
 Revives less lovely from the recent show'r ;
 So Philomel, enamour'd, eyes the rose ;
 Sweet bird ! enamour'd of the sweetest flow'r.

He lov'd the Muse ; she taught him to complain ;
 He saw his timorous loves on her depend :
 He lov'd the Muse, although she taught in vain ;
 He lov'd the Muse, for she was Virtue's friend.

She guides the foot that treads on Parian floors ;
 She wins the ear when formal pleas are vain ;
 She tempts patricians from the fatal doors
 Of Vice's brothel forth to Virtue's fane.

He wish'd for wealth, for much he wish'd to give ;
 He griev'd that virtue might not wealth obtain :
 Piteous of woes, and hopeless to relieve,
 The pensive prospect sadden'd all his strain.

I saw him faint! I saw him sink to rest!
 Like one ordain'd to swell the vulgar throng ;
 As though the Virtues had not warm'd his breast,
 As though the Muses not inspir'd his tongue.
 I saw his bier ignobly cross the plain ;
 Saw peasant hands the pious rite supply :
 The generous rustics mourn'd the friendly swain,
 But Power and Wealth's unvarying cheek was dry!
 Such Alcon fell ; in meagre want forlorn !
 Where were ye then, ye powerful Patrons ! where ?
 Would ye the purple should your limbs adorn,
 Go wash the conscious blemish with a tear.

OPHELIA'S URN.

TO MR. G——.

THROUGH the dim veil of evening's dusky shade,
 Near some lone fane, or yew's funereal green,
 What dreary forms has magic fear survey'd !
 What shrouded spectres Superstition seen !
 But you, secure, shall pour your sad complaint,
 Nor dread the meagre phantom's wan array ;
 What none but Fear's officious hand can paint,
 What none but Superstition's eye survey.
 The glimmering twilight and the doubtful dawn
 Shall see your step to these sad scenes return :
 Constant, as crystal dews impearl the lawn,
 Shall Strephon's tear bedew Ophelia's urn.
 Sure nought unhallow'd shall presume to stray
 Where sleep the relics of that virtuous maid ;
 Nor aught unlovely bend its devious way
 Where soft Ophelia's dear remains are laid.

Haply thy Muse, as with unceasing sighs
She keeps late vigils on her urn reclin'd,
May see light groups of pleasing visions rise,
And phantoms glide, but of celestial kind.

Then Fame, her clarion pendent at her side,
Shall seek forgiveness of Ophelia's shade ;
' Why has such worth, without distinction, died?
Why, like the desert's lily, bloom'd to fade ?'

Then young Simplicity, averse to feign,
Shall, unmolested, breathe her softest sigh ;
And Candour with unwonted warmth complain,
And Innocence indulge a wailful cry.

Then Elegance, with coy judicious hand,
Shall cull fresh flowerets for Ophelia's tomb ;
And Beauty chide the Fates' severe command,
That show'd the frailty of so fair a bloom !

And Fancy then, with wild ungovern'd woe,
Shall her lov'd pupil's native taste explain ;
For mournful sable all her hues forego,
And ask sweet solace of the Muse in vain !

Ah ! gentle forms ! expect no fond relief ;
Too much the sacred Nine their loss deplore :
Well may ye grieve, nor find an end of grief—
Your best, your brightest, favourite is no more.

HE COMPARES THE TURBULENCE OF LOVE WITH
THE TRANQUILLITY OF FRIENDSHIP.

TO MELISSA, HIS FRIEND.

FROM Love, from angry Love's inclement reign
I pass a while to Friendship's equal skies;
Thou, generous Maid! reliev'st my partial pain,
And cheer'st the victim of another's eyes.
'Tis thou, Melissa, thou deserv'st my care;
How can my will and reason disagree?
How can my passion live beneath despair?
How can my bosom sigh for aught but thee?
Ah, dear Melissa! pleas'd with thee to rove,
My soul has yet surviv'd its dreariest time;
Ill can I bear the various clime of Love;
Love is a pleasing but a various clime.
So smiles immortal Maro's favourite shore,
Parthenope, with every verdure crown'd;
When straight Vesuvio's horrid caldrons roar,
And the dry vapour blasts the regions round.
Oh, blissful regions! oh, unrivall'd plains!
When Maro to these fragrant haunts retir'd:
Oh, fatal realms! and, oh, accurs'd domains!
When Pliny mid sulphureous clouds expir'd.
So smiles the surface of the treacherous main,
As o'er its waves the peaceful halcyons play,
When soon rude winds their wonted rule regain,
And sky and ocean mingle in the fray.
But let or air contend or ocean rave;
Ev'n Hope subside, amid the billows toss;
Hope, still emergent, still contemns the wave,
And not a feature's wonted smile is lost.

TO A LADY,
ON THE LANGUAGE OF BIRDS.

COME then, Dione, let us range the grove,
The science of the feather'd choirs explore,
Hear linnets argue, larks descant of love,
And blame the gloom of solitude no more.

My doubt subsides—'tis no Italian song,
Nor senseless ditty cheers the vernal tree :
Ah ! who that hears Dione's tuneful tongue
Shall doubt that music may with sense agree ?
And come, my Muse ! that lov'st the silvan shade,
Evolve the mazes, and the mist dispel ;
Translate the song ; convince my doubting maid
No solemn dervise can explain so well.—

Pensive beneath the twilight shades I sate,
The slave of hopeless vows and cold disdain !
When Philomel address'd his mournful mate,
And thus I construed the mellifluous strain :—

‘ Sing on, my bird ! —the liquid notes prolong,
At every note a lover sheds his tear ;
Sing on, my bird ! —’tis Damon hears thy song,
Nor doubt to gain applause when lovers hear.

‘ He the sad source of our complaining knows,
A foe to Tereus and to lawless love !
He mourns the story of our ancient woes ;
Ah, could our music his complaint remove !

‘ Yon plains are govern'd by a peerless maid ;
And see ! pale Cynthia mounts the vaulted sky,
A train of lovers court the chequer'd shade ;
Sing on, my bird ! and hear thy mates reply.

- ' Erewhile no shepherd to these woods retir'd,
 No lover bless'd the glow-worm's pallid ray ;
 But ill-star'd birds that, listening, not admir'd,
 Or listening, envied our superior lay.
- ' Cheer'd by the sun, the vassals of his pow'r,
 Let such by day unite their jarring strains ;
 But let us choose the calm, the silent hour,
 Nor want fit audience while Dione reigns.'
-

*HE DESCRIBES HIS VISION
TO AN ACQUAINTANCE.*

Cætera per terras omnes animalia, &c. VIRG.
 All animals beside, o'er all the earth, &c.

ON distant heaths, beneath autumnal skies,
 Pensive I saw the circling shade descend ;
 Weary and faint I heard the storm arise,
 While the sun vanish'd like a faithless friend.

No kind companion led my steps aright ;
 No friendly planet lent its glimmering ray ;
 Ev'n the lone cot refus'd its wonted light,
 Where Toil in peaceful slumber clos'd the day.

Then the dull bell had given a pleasing sound ;
 The village cur 'twere transport then to hear ;
 In dreadful silence all was hush'd around,
 While the rude storm alone distress'd mine ear.

As led by Orwell's winding banks I stray'd,
 Where towering Wolsey breath'd his native air,
 A sudden lustre chas'd the flitting shade,
 The sounding winds were hush'd, and all was fair.

Instant a grateful form appear'd confess'd;

White were his locks, with awful scarlet crown'd;
And livelier far than Tyrian seem'd his vest,
That with the glowing purple ting'd the ground.

' Stranger, (he said) amid this pealing rain,
Benighted, lonesome, whither wouldst thou stray?
Does wealth or power thy weary step constrain?
Reveal thy wish, and let me point the way.

' For know, I trod the trophied paths of pow'r,
Felt every joy that fair Ambition brings,
And left the lonely roof of yonder bow'r
To stand beneath the canopies of kings.

' I bade low hinds the towering ardour share,
Nor meanly rose to bless myself alone;
I snatch'd the shepherd from his fleecy care,
And bade his wholesome dictate guard the throne.

' Low at my feet the suppliant peer I saw;
I saw proud empires my decision wait;
My will was duty, and my word was law,
My smile was transport, and my frown was fate.'

' Ah me! (said I) nor power I seek, nor gain;
Nor urg'd by hope of fame these toils endure;
A simple youth, that feels a lover's pain,
And from his friend's condolence hopes a cure.

' He, the dear youth! to whose abodes I roam,
Nor can mine honours nor my fields extend;
Yet for his sake I leave my distant home,
Which oaks embosom, and which hills defend.

' Beneath that home I scorn the wintry wind;
The Spring, to shade me, robes her fairest tree;
And if a friend my grass-grown threshold find,
O how my lonely cot resounds with glee!

- ‘ Yet, though averse to gold in heaps amass'd,
I wish to bless, I languish to bestow ;
And though no friend to Fame's obstreperous blast,
Still to her dulcet murmurs not a foe.
- ‘ Too proud with servile tone to deign address ;
Too mean to think that honours are my due ;
Yet should some patron yield my stores to bless,
I sure should deem my boundless thanks were few.
- ‘ But tell me, thou ! that like a meteor's fire
Shot'st blazing forth, disdaining dull degrees ;
Should I to wealth, to fame, to power aspire,
Must I not pass more rugged paths than these ?
- ‘ Must I not groan beneath a guilty load,
Praise him I scorn, and him I love betray ?
Does not felonious Envy bar the road ?
Or Falsehood's treacherous foot beset the way ?
- ‘ Say, should I pass through Favour's crowded gate,
Must not fair Truth inglorious wait behind ?
Whilst I approach the glittering scenes of state,
My best companion no admittance find ?
- ‘ Nurs'd in the shades by Freedom's lenient care,
Shall I the rigid sway of Fortune own ?
Taught by the voice of pious Truth, prepare
To spurn an altar, and adore a throne ?
- ‘ And when proud Fortune's ebbing tide recedes,
And when it leaves me no unshaken friend ;
Shall I not weep that e'er I left the meads,
Which oaks embosom, and which hills defend ?
- ‘ Oh ! if these ills the price of power advance,
Check not my speed where social joys invite !—
The troubled vision cast a mournful glance,
And, sighing, vanish'd in the shades of night.

**HE DESCRIBES HIS EARLY LOVE OF POETRY, AND
ITS CONSEQUENCES.**

TO MR. G——, 1745¹.

Ah me! what envious magic thins my fold?
 What mutter'd spell retards their late increase?
 Such lessening fleeces must the swain behold,
 That e'er with dotic pipe essays to please.

I saw my friends in evening circles meet;
 I took my vocal reed, and tun'd my lay;
 I heard them say my vocal reed was sweet:—
 Ah, fool! to credit what I heard them say.

Ill-fated hard! that seeks his skill to show,
 Then courts the judgment of a friendly ear;
 Not the poor veteran, that permits his foe
 To guide his doubtful step, has more to fear.

Nor could my G—— mistake the critic's laws,
 Till pious Friendship mark'd the pleasing way:
 Welcome such error! ever bless'd the cause!
 Ev'n though it led me boundless leagues astray.

Couldst thou reprove me, when I nurs'd the flame,
 On listening Cherwell's osier banks reclin'd?
 While foe to Fortune, unseduc'd by Fame,
 I sooth'd the bias of a careless mind.

Youth's gentle kindred, Health and Love, were me;—
 What though in Alma's guardian arms I play'd?
 How shall the Muse those vacant hours forget?
 Or deem that bliss by solid cares repaid?

¹ Written after the death of Mr. Pope.

Thou know'st how transport thrills the tender breast
Where Love and Fancy fix their opening reign;
How Nature shines, in livelier colours dress'd,
To bless their union, and to grace their train.

So first when Phœbus met the Cyprian queen,
And favour'd Rhodes beheld their passion crown'd,
Unusual flowers enrich'd the painted green,
And swift spontaneous roses blush'd around.

Now sadly lorn, from Twit'nam's widow'd bow'r
The drooping Muses take their casual way,
And where they stop a flood of tears they pour,
And where they weep no more the fields are gay.

Where is the dappled pink, the sprightly rose?
The cowslip's golden cup no more I see:
Dark and discolour'd every flower that blows,
To form the garland, Elegy! for thee—

Enough of tears has wept the virtuous dead;
Ah! might we now the pious rage control!
Hush'd be my grief ere every smile be fled,
Ere the deep-swelling sigh subvert the soul!

If near some trophy spring a stripling bay,
Pleas'd we behold the graceful umbrage rise;
But soon, too deep it works its baneful way,
And low on earth the prostrate ruin lies².

² Alludes to what is reported of the bay-tree, that if it is planted too near the walls of an edifice, its roots will work their way underneath, till they destroy the foundation.

HE DESCRIBES HIS DISINTERESTEDNESS.

TO A FRIEND.

I NE'ER must tinge my lip with Celtic wines ;
 The pomp of India must I ne'er display ;
 Nor boast the produce of Peruvian mines,
 Nor with Italian sounds deceive the day.

Down yonder brook my crystal beverage flows ;
 My grateful sheep their annual fleeces bring ;
 Fair in my garden buds the damask rose,
 And from my grove I hear the throstle sing.

My fellow swains ! avert your dazzled eyes ;
 In vain allur'd by glittering spoils they rove ;
 The Fates ne'er meant them for the shepherd's prize,
 Yet gave them ample recompense in love.

They gave you vigour from your parents' veins ;
 They gave you toils ; but toils your sinews brace ;
 They gave you nymphs that own their amorous pains,
 And shades, the refuge of the gentle race.

To carve your loves, to paint your mutual flames,
 See ! polish'd fair, the beech's friendly rind !
 To sing soft carols to your lovely dames,
 See vocal grots, and echoing vales assign'd !

Wouldst thou, my Straphon, Love's delighted slave !
 Though sure the wreaths of chivalry to share,
 Forego the ribbon thy Matilda gave,
 And giving, bade thee in remembrance wear ?

Ill fare my peace, but every idle toy,
 If to my mind my Delia's form it brings,
 Has truer worth, imparts sincerer joy,
 Than all that bears the radiant stamp of kings.

O my soul weeps, my breast with anguish bleeds,
When Love deplores the tyrant power of Gain!

Disdaining riches as the futile weeds,
I rise superior, and the rich disdain.

Oft from the stream, slow-wandering down the glade,
Pensive I hear the nuptial peal rebound;

' Some miser weds (I cry) the captive maid,
And some fond lover sickens at the sound.'

Not Somervile, the Muse's friend of old!

Though now exalted to yon ambient sky,
So shun'd a soul distain'd with earth and gold,

So lov'd the pure, the generous breast, as I.

Scorn'd be the wretch that quits his genial bowl,

His loves, his friendships, ev'n his self resigns;

Perverts the sacred instinct of his soul,

And to a ducat's dirty sphere confines.

But come, my Friend! with taste, with science blest,

Ere age impair me, and ere gold allure;

Restore thy dear idea to my breast,

The rich deposit shall the shrine secure.

Let others toil to gain the sordid ore,

The charms of independence let us sing;

Bless'd with thy friendship, can I wish for more?

I'll spurn the boasted wealth of Lydia's king¹.

TO FORTUNE,

SUGGESTING HIS MOTIVE FOR REPINING AT HER
DISPENSATIONS.

Ask not the cause why this rebellious tongue

Loads with fresh curses thy detested sway;

Ask not, thus branded in my softest song,

Why stands the flatter'd name which all obey?

¹ Croesus.

'Tis not, that in my shed I lurk forlorn,
 Nor see my roof on Parian columns rise ;
 That on this breast no mimic star is borne,
 Rever'd, ah ! more than those that light the skies.

'Tis not, that on the turf supinely laid,
 I sing or pipe, but to the flocks that graze ;
 And, all inglorious, in the lonesome shade
 My finger stiffens, and my voice decays.

Not, that my fancy mourns thy stern command,
 When many an embryo dome is lost in air ;
 While guardian Prudence checks my eager hand,
 And, ere the turf is broken, cries, ' Forbear :

' Forbear, vain Youth ! be cautious, weigh thy gold,
 Nor let you rising column more aspire ;
 Ah ! better dwell in ruins than behold
 Thy fortunes moulderling, and thy domes entire.

' Honorio built, but dar'd my laws defy ;
 He planted, scornful of my sage commands,
 The peach's vernal bud regal'd his eye,
 The fruitage ripen'd for more frugal hands.

' See the small stream, that pours its murmuring tide
 O'er some rough rock that would its wealth dis-
 Displays it aught but penury and pride ? [play,
 Ah ! construe wisely what such murmurs say.

' How would some flood, with ampler treasures
 Disdainful view the scantling drops distil ! [blest,
 How must Velino ¹ shake his reedy crest !
 How every cygnet mock the boastive rill !

Fortune ! I yield : and see, I give the sign ;
 At noon the poor mechanic wanders home,
 Collects the square, the level, and the line,
 And with retorted eye forsakes the dome.

¹ A river in Italy, that falls 100 yards perpendicular.

Yes, I can patient view the shadeless plains ;
Can unrepining leave the rising wall ;
Check the fond love of art that fir'd my veins,
And my warm hopes in full pursuit recal.

Descend, ye storms ! destroy my rising pile ;
Loos'd be the whirlwind's unremitting sway ;
Contented I, although the gazer smile
To see it scarce survive a winter's day.

Let some dull dotard bask in thy gay shrine,
As in the sun regales his wanton herd ;
Guiltless of envy, why should I repine
That his rude voice, his grating reed's prefer'd ?

Let him exult, with boundless wealth supplied,
Mine and the swain's reluctant homage share ;
But, ah ! his tawdry shepherdess's pride,
Gods ! must my Delia, must my Delia bear ?

Must Delia's softness, elegance, and ease,
Submit to Marian's dress ? to Marian's gold ?
Must Marian's robe from distant India please ?
The simple fleece my Delia's limbs enfold ?

' Yet sure on Delia seems the russet fair ;
Ye glittering daughters of Disguise, adien !
So talk the wise, who judge of shape and air,
But will the rural thane decide so true ?

Ah ! what is native worth esteem'd of clowns ?
'Tis thy false glare, O Fortune ! thine they see ;
'Tis for my Delia's sake I dread thy frowns,
And my last gasp shall curses breathe on thee.

HE COMPLAINS HOW SOON THE PLEASING NO-
VELTY OF LIFE IS OVER.

TO MR. J——¹.

AH me! my Friend! it will not, will not last!

This fairy scene that cheats our youthful eyes;
The charm dissolves; the aerial music's past;
The banquet ceases, and the vision flies.

Where are the splendid forms, the rich perfumes,
Where the gay tapers, where the spacious dome?
Vanish'd the costly pearls, the crimson plumes,
And we, delightless, left to wander home!

Vain now are books, the sage's wisdom vain!

What has the world to bribe our steps astray?
Ere Reason learns by studied laws to reign,
The weaken'd passions, self-subdued, obey.

Scarce has the sun seven annual courses roll'd,
Scarce shown the whole that Fortune can supply,
Since not the miser so caress'd his gold
As I, for what it gave, was heard to sigh.

On the world's stage I wish'd some sprightly part,
To deck my native fleece with tawdry lace!

'Twas life, 'twas taste, and—oh, my foolish heart!
Substantial joy was fix'd in power and place.

And you, ye works of Art! allur'd mine eye,
The breathing picture and the living stone: [deny,
Though gold, though splendor, Heaven and Fate
Yet might I call one Titian stroke my own!]

Smit with the charms of Fame, whose lovely spoil,
The wreath, the garland, fire the poet's pride;
I trim'd my lamp, consum'd the midnight oil—
But soon the paths of health and fame divide!

¹ Probably Jago: the author of Edge-hill, and other poe

Oft too I pray'd, 'twas Nature form'd the pray'r,
 To grace my native scenes, my rural home ;
 To see my trees express their planter's care,
 And gay, on Attic models, raise my dome.

But now 'tis o'er, the dear delusion's o'er !
 A stagnant breezeless air becalms my soul ;
 A fond aspiring candidate no more,
 I scorn the palm before I reach the goal.

O youth ! enchanting stage, profusely bless'd !
 Bliss ev'n obtrusive courts the frolic mind ;
 Of health neglectful, yet by health caress'd,
 Careless of favour, yet secure to find.

Then glows the breast, as opening roses fair ;
 More free, more vivid, than the linnet's wing ;
 Honest as light, transparent ev'n as air,
 Tender as buds, and lavish as the spring.

Not all the force of manhood's active might,
 Not all the craft to subtle age assign'd,
 Not science shall extort that dear delight,
 Which gay delusion gave the tender mind.

Adieu, soft raptures ! transports yond of care !
 Parent of raptures, dear deceit ! adieu ;
 And you, her daughters, pining with despair,
 Why, why so soon her fleeting steps pursue ?

Tedious again to curse the drizzling day !
 Again to trace the wintry tracts of snow !
 Or, sooth'd by vernal airs, again survey
 The self-same hawthorns bud, and cowslips blow !

O life ! how soon of every bliss forlorn !
 We start false joys, and urge the devious race ;
 A tender prey ; that cheers our youthful morn,
 Then sinks untimely, and defrauds the chase.

HIS RECASTATION.

No more the Muse obtrudes her thin disguise,
No more with awkward fallacy complains
How every fervor from my bosom flies,
And Reason in her lonesome palace reigns.

Ere the chill winter of our days arrive,
No more she paints the breast from passion free ;
I feel, I feel one loitering wish survive—
Ah! need I, Florio, name that wish to thee ?

The star of Venus ushers in the day,
The first, the loveliest of the train that shine !
The star of Venus lends her brightest ray,
When other stars their friendly beams resign.

Still in my breast one soft desire remains,
Pure as that star, from guilt, from interest, free ;
Has gentle Delia tripp'd across the plains,
And need I, Florio, name that wish to thee ?

While, cloy'd to find the scenes of life the same,
I tune with careless hand my languid lays,
Some secret impulse wakes my former flame,
And fires my strain with hopes of brighter days.

I slept not long beneath yon rural bowers,
And lo ! my crook with flowers adorn'd I see ;
Has gentle Delia bound my crook with flowers,
And need I, Florio, name my hopes to thee ?

TO A FRIEND,

ON SOME SLIGHT OCCASION ESTRANGED FROM HIM.

HEALTH to my friend, and many a cheerful day !
 Around his seat may peaceful shades abide !
 Smooth flow the minutes, fraught with smiles, away,
 And till they crown our union gently glide !

Ah me ! too swiftly fleets our vernal bloom !
 Lost to our wonted friendship, lost to joy !
 Soon may thy breast the cordial wish resume,
 Ere wintry doubt its tender warmth destroy !

Say, were it ours, by Fortune's wild command,
 By chance to meet beneath the torrid zone,
 Wouldst thou reject thy Damou's plighted hand ?
 Wouldst thou with scorn thy once-lov'd friend
 disown ?

Life is that stranger land, that alien clime :
 Shall kindred souls forego their social claim ?
 Launch'd in the vast abyss of space and time,
 Shall dark suspicion quench the generous flame ?

Myriads of souls, that knew one parent mould,
 See sadly sever'd by the laws of Chance !
 Myriads, in Time's perennial list enroll'd,
 Forbid by Fate to change one transient glanee !

But we have met—where ills of every form,
 Where passions rage, and hurricanes descend ;
 Say, shall we nurse the rage, assist the storm,
 And guide them to the bosom—of a friend ?

Yes, we have met—through rapine, fraud, and
 wrong :
 Might our joint aid the paths of peace explore !
 Why leave thy friend amid the boisterous throng,
 Ere death divide us, and we part no more ?

For, oh ! pale Sickness warns thy friend away ;
 For me no more the vernal roses bloom !
 I see stern Fate his ebon wand display,
 And point the wither'd regions of the tomb.
 Then the keen anguish from thine eye shall start,
 Sad as thou follow'st my untimely bier ;
 ' Fool that I was—if friends so soon must part,—
 To let suspicion intermix a fear.'

DECLINING AN INVITATION TO VISIT FOREIGN COUNTRIES, HE TAKES OCCASION TO INTIMATE THE ADVANTAGES OF HIS OWN.

TO LORD TEMPLE.

WHILE others, lost to friendship, lost to love,
 Waste their best minutes on a foreign strand,
 Be mine with British nymph or swain to rove,
 And court the genius of my native land.
 Deluded youth! that quits these verdant plains,
 To catch the follies of an alien soil!
 To win the vice his genuine soul disdains,
 Return exultant, and import the spoil !
 In vain he boasts of his detested prize ;
 No more it blooms, to British climes convey'd ;
 Cramp'd by the impulse of ungenial skies,
 See its fresh vigour in a moment fade !
 The exotic folly knows its native clime,
 An awkward stranger, if we waft it o'er :
 Why then these toils, this costly waste of time,
 To spread soft poison on our happy shore ?

I covet not the pride of foreign looms :
 In search of foreign modes I scorn to rove ;
 Nor for the worthless bird of brighter plumes
 Would change the meanest warbler of my grove.
 No distant clime shall servile airs impart,
 Or form these limbs with pliant ease to play ;
 Trembling I view the Gaul's illusive art
 That steals my lov'd rusticity away.
 'Tis long since Freedom fled the' Hesperian clime,
 Her citron groves, her flower-embroider'd shore ;
 She saw the British oak aspire sublime,
 And soft Campania's olive charms no more.
 Let partial suns mature the western mine,
 To shed its lustre o'er the' Iberian maid ;
 Mien, beauty, shape, O native soil ! are thine ;
 Thy peerless daughters ask no foreign aid.
 Let Ceylon's envied plant ¹ perfume the seas,
 'Till torn to season the Batavian bowl ;
 Ours is the breast whose genuine ardours please,
 Nor need a drug to meliorate the soul.
 Let the proud Soldan wound the' Arcadian groves,
 Or with rude lips the' Aonian fount profane ;
 The Muse no more by flowery Ladon roves,
 She seeks her Thomson on the British plain.
 Tell not of realms by ruthless war dismay'd ;
 Ah, hapless realms ! that war's oppression feel :
 In vain may Austria boast her Noric blade,
 If Austria bleed beneath her boasted steel.
 Beneath her palm Idume vents her moan ;
 Raptur'd, she once beheld its friendly shade ;
 And hoary Memphis boasts her tombs alone,
 The mournful types of mighty power decay'd !

¹ The cinnamon,

No crescent here displays its baneful horns ;

No turban'd host the voice of Truth reprobres ;
Learning's free source the sage's breast adorns,
And poets, not inglorious, chant their loves.

Boast, favour'd Media ! boast thy flowery stores ;
Thy thousand hues by chemic suns refin'd ;
'Tis not the dress or mien my soul adores,
'Tis the rich beauties of Britannia's mind.

While Grenville's² breast could virtue's stores afford,
What envied flota bore so fair a freight ?
The mine compar'd in vain its latent hoard,
The gem its lustre, and the gold its weight.

Thee, Grenville ! thee, with calmest courage fraught !
Thee, the lov'd image of thy native shore !
Thee, by the Virtues arm'd, the Graces taught !
When shall we cease to boast or to deplore ?

Presumptuous War, which could thy life destroy,
What shall it now in recompense decree ?
While friends, that merit every earthly joy,
Feel every anguish; feel—the loss of thee !

Bid me no more a servile realm compare,
No more the Muse of partial praise arraign ;
Britannia sees no foreign breast so fair,
And if she glory, glories not in vain.

² Written about the time of Captain Grenville's death.

*IN MEMORY OF A PRIVATE FAMILY¹.**IN WORCESTERSHIRE.*

FROM a lone tower with reverend ivy crown'd,
 The pealing bell awak'd a tender sigh;
 Still as the village caught the waving sound,
 A swelling tear distream'd from every eye.

So droop'd, I ween, each Briton's breast of old,
 When the dull curfew spoke their freedom fled;
 For, sighing as the mournful accent roll'd,
 'Our hope, (they cried) our kind support, is dead!'

'Twas good Palemon!—Near a shaded pool,
 A group of ancient elms umbrageous rose;
 The flocking rooks, by Instinct's native rule,
 This peaceful scene for their asylum chose.

A few small spires, to gothic fancy fair,
 Amid the shades emerging, struck the view;
 'Twas here his youth respir'd its earliest air;
 'Twas here his age breath'd out its last adieu.

One favour'd son engag'd his tenderest care;
 One pious youth his whole affection crown'd;
 In his young breast the virtues sprung so fair,
 Such charms display'd, such sweets diffus'd around.

But whilst gay transport in his face appears,
 A noxious vapour clogs the poison'd sky,
 Blasts the fair crop—the sire is drown'd in tears,
 And, scarce surviving, sees his Cynthio die!

¹ The Penns of Harborough; a place whose name in the Saxon language alludes to an army: and there is a tradition that there was a battle fought on the Downs adjoining, betwixt the Britons and the Romans.

O'er the pale corse we saw him gently bend;
 Heart-chill'd with grief—‘ My thread, (he cried)
 ‘ is spun !

If Heaven had meant I should my life extend,
 Heaven had preserv'd my life's support, my son!

‘ Snatch'd in thy prime ! alas, the stroke were mild,
 Had my frail form obey'd the Fates' decree !
 Bless'd were my lot, O Cynthio ! O my child !
 Had Heaven so pleas'd, and I had died for thee.’

Five sleepless nights he stem'd this tide of woes ;
 Five irksome suns he saw, through tears, forlorn :
 On his pale corse the sixth sad morning rose ;
 From yonder dome the mournful bier was borne.

‘ Twas on those downs ¹, by Roman hosts annoy'd,
 Fought our bold fathers, rustic, unrefin'd !
 Freedom's plain sons, in martial cares employ'd ;
 They ting'd their bodies, but unmask'd their
 mind.

‘ Twas there, in happier times, this virtuous race,
 Of milder merit, fix'd their calm retreat ;
 War's deadly crimson had forsook the place,
 And Freedom fondly lov'd the chosen seat.

No wild ambition fir'd their tranquil breast,
 To swell with empty sounds a spotless name ;
 If fostering skies, the sun, the shower, were bless'd,
 Their bounty spread ; their fields' extent the
 same.

Those fields, profuse of raiment, food, and fire,
 They scorn'd to lessen, careless to extend ;
 Bade Luxury to lavish courts aspire,
 And Avarice to city breasts descend.

¹ Harborough Downs.

None to a virgin's mind prefer'd her dow'r,
To fire with vicious hopes a modest heir:
The sire, in place of titles, wealth, or pow'r,
Assign'd him virtue; and his lot was fair.

They spoke of Fortune as some doubtful dame,
That sway'd the natives of a distant sphere;
From Lucre's vagrant sons had learn'd her fame,
But never wish'd to place her banners here.

Here youth's free spirit, innocently gay,
Enjoy'd the most that Innocence can give;
Those wholesome sweets that border Virtue's way;
Those cooling fruits, that we may taste and live.

Their board no strange ambiguous viand bore;
From their own streams their choicer fare they
To lure the scaly glutton to the shore, [drew;
The sole deceit their artless bosom knew.

Sincere themselves, ah! too secure to find
The common bosom, like their own, sincere.
'Tis its own guilt alarms the jealous mind;
'Tis her own poison bids the viper fear.

Sketch'd on the lattice of the' adjacent fane,
Their suppliant busts implore the reader's pray'r:
Ah! gentle souls! enjoy your blissful reign,
And let frail mortals claim your guardian care.

For sure to blissful realms the souls are flown,
That never flatter'd, injur'd, censur'd, strove;
The friends of Science! music all their own;
Music, the voice of Virtue and of Love!

The journeying peasant, through the secret shade
Heard their soft lyres engage his listening ear,
And haply deem'd some courteous angel play'd;
No angel play'd—but might with transport hear.

For these the sounds that chase unholy Strife,
 Solve Envy's charm, Ambition's wretch release,
 Raise him to spurn the radiant ills of life,
 To pity pomp, to be content with peace.

Farewell, pure spirits ! vain the praise we give,
 The praise you sought from lips angelic flows ;
 Farewell ! the virtues which deserve to live
 Deserve an ampler bliss than life bestows.

Last of his race, Palemon, now no more
 The modest merit of his line display'd ;
 Then pious Hough Vigornia's mitre wore—
 Soft sleep the dust of each deserving shade.

HE SUGGESTS THE ADVANTAGES OF BIRTH TO A PERSON OF MERIT, AND THE FOLLY OF A SUPER-CILIOUSNESS THAT IS BUILT UPON THAT SOLE FOUNDATION.

WHEN genius, grac'd with lineal splendour, glows,
 When title shines, with ambient virtues crown'd ;
 Like some fair almond's flowery pomp, it shows
 The pride, the perfume, of the regions round.

Then learn, ye fair ! to soften splendour's ray ;
 Endure the swain, the youth of low degree ;
 Let meekness join'd its temperate beam display ;
 'Tis the mild verdure that endears the tree.

Pity the sandal'd swain, the shepherd's boy ;
 He sighs to brighten a neglected name ;
 Foe to the dull appulse of vulgar joy,
 He mourns his lot ; he wishes, merits, fame.

In vain to groves and pathless vales we fly ;
 Ambition there the bowery haunt invades ;
 Fame's awful rays fatigue the courtier's eye, [shades.
 But gleams till lovely through the chequer'd
 Vainly, to guard from Love's unequal chain,
 Has Fortune rear'd us in the rural grove ;
 Should ***'s eyes illume the desert plain,
 Ev'n I may wonder, and ev'n I must love.

Nor unregarded sighs the lowly hind ;
 Though you contemn, the gods respect his vow ;
 Vindictive rage awaits the scornful mind,
 And vengeance, too severe ! the gods allow.

On Sarum's plain I met a wandering fair ;
 The look of sorrow, lovely still, she bore ;
 Loose flow'd the soft redundancy of her hair,
 And on her brow a flowery wreath she wore.

Oft stooping as she stray'd, she cull'd the pride
 Of every plain ; she pillag'd every grove :
 The fading chaplet daily she supplied,
 And still her hand some various garland wove.

Erroneous Fancy shap'd her wild attire ;
 From Bethlem's walls the poor lymphatic stray'd ;
 Seem'd with her air her accent to conspire,
 When as wild Fancy taught her, thus she said :

' Hear me, dear youth, oh ! hear an hapless maid,
 Sprung from the sceptred line of ancient kings !
 Scorn'd by the world, I ask thy tender aid ;
 Thy gentle voice shall whisper kinder things.

' The world is frantic—fly the race profane—
 Nor I nor you shall its compassion move ;
 Come, friendly let us wander and complain,
 And tell me, shepherd ! hast thou seen my love ?

‘ My love is young—but other loves are young !

And other loves are fair, and so is mine ;

An air divine discloses whence he sprung ;

He is my love who boasts that air divine.

‘ No vulgar Damon robs me of my rest ;

Ianthe listens to no vulgar vow ;

A prince, from gods descended, fires her breast ;

A brilliant crown distinguishes his brow.

‘ What, shall I stain the glories of my race, [beam ?

More clear, more lovely bright, than Hesper’s

The porcelain pure with vulgar dirt debase ?

Or mix with puddle the pellucid stream ?

‘ See through these veins the sapphire current shine !

‘ Twas Jove’s own nectar gave the’ ethereal hue :

Can base plebeian forms contend with mine,

Display the lovely white, or match the blue ?

‘ The painter strove to trace its azure ray ;

He chang’d his colours, and in vain he strove :

He frown’d—I, smiling, view’d the faint essay :—

Poor youth ! he little knew it flow’d from Jove.

‘ Pitying his toil, the wondrous truth I told,

How amorous Jove trepan’d a mortal fair ;

How through the race the generous current roll’d,

And mocks the poet’s art and painter’s care.

‘ Yes, from the gods, from earliest Saturn sprung

Our sacred race, through demigods convey’d ;

And he, allied to Phœbus, ever young,

My godlike boy ! must wed their duteous maid.

‘ Oft, when a mortal vow profanes my ears,

My sire’s dread fury murmurs through the sky !

And should I yield—his instant rage appears ;

He darts the’ uplifted vengeance—and I die.

- ‘ Have you not heard unwonted thunders roll?
Have you not seen more horrid lightnings glare?
‘ Twas then a vulgar love ensnar’d my soul;
‘ Twas then—I hardly ’scap’d the fatal snare.
- ‘ Twas then a peasant pour’d his amorous vow,
All as I listen’d to his vulgar strain;—
Yet such his beauty—would my birth allow,
Dear were the youth, and blissful were the plain.
- ‘ But, oh! I faint; why wastes my vernal bloom,
In fruitless searches ever doom’d to rove?
My nightly dreams the toilsome path resume,
And shall I die—before I find my love?
- ‘ When last I slept, methought my ravish’d eye
On distant heaths his radiant form survey’d;
Though night’s thick clouds encompass’d all the sky,
The gems that bound his brow dispell’d the shade.
- ‘ O how this bosom kindled at the sight!
Led by their beams I urg’d the pleasing chase,
Till on a sudden these withheld their light—
All, all things envy the sublime embrace.
- ‘ But now no more—behind the distant grove
Wanders my destin’d youth, and chides my stay:
See, see! he grasps the steel—forbear, my love—
Ianthe comes; thy princess hastes away.’
- Scornful she spoke, and heedless of reply,
The lovely maniac bounded o’er the plain,
The piteous victim of an angry sky!
Ah me! the victim of her proud disdain.

HE INDULGES THE SUGGESTIONS OF SPLEEN :

AN ELEGY TO THE WINDS.

Æole! namque tibi divum Pater atque hominum rex,
Et mulcere dedit mentes et tollere vento.

O Æolus! to thee, the Sire supreme
Of gods and men, the mighty power bequeath'd
To rouse or to assuage the human mind.

STERN monarch of the winds! admit my pray'r;
A while thy fury check, thy storms confine;
No trivial blast impels the passive air,
But brews a tempest in a breast like mine.

What bands of black ideas spread their wings!
The peaceful regions of content invade!
With deadly poison taint the crystal springs!
With noisome vapour blast the verdant shade!

I know their leader, Spleen, and the dread sway
Of rigid Eurus, his detested sire;
Through one my blossoms and my fruits decay;
Through one my pleasures and my hopes expire.

Like some pale stripling, when his icy way,
Relenting, yields beneath the noon tide beam,
I stand aghast; and chill'd with fear, survey
How far I've tempted life's deceitful stream.

Where, by remorse impell'd, repuls'd by fears,
Shall wretched Fancy a retreat explore?
She flies the sad presage of coming years,
And, sorrowing, dwells on pleasures now no more.

Again with patrons and with friends she roves,
But friends and patrons never to return ;
She sees the Nymphs, the Graces, and the Loves,
But sees them weeping o'er Lucinda's urn.

She visits, Isis ! thy forsaken stream ;
Oh ! ill forsaken for Boeotian air ;
She deems no flood reflects so bright a beam,
No reed so verdant, and no flowers so fair.
She deems beneath thy sacred shades were peace,
Thy bays might ev'n the civil storm repel ;
Reviews thy social bliss, thy learned ease,
And with no cheerful accent cries—Farewell !

Farewell, with whom to these retreats I stray'd,
By youthful sports, by youthful toils, allied ;
Joyous we sojourn'd in thy circling shade,
And wept to find the paths of life divide.

She paints the progress of my rival's vow,
Sees every Muse a partial ear incline,
Binds with luxuriant bays his favour'd brow,
Nor yields the refuse of his wreath to mine.

She bids the flattering mirror, form'd to please,
Now blast my hope, now vindicate despair ;
Bids my fond verse the love-sick parley cease,
Accuse my rigid fate, acquit my fair.

Where circling rocks defend some pathless vale,
Superfluous mortal ! let me ever rove ;
Alas ! there echo will repeat the tale—
Where shall I find the silent scenes I love ?

Fain would I mourn my luckless fate alone,
Forbid to please, yet fated to admire ;
Away, my friends ! my sorrows are my own ;
Why should breathe around my sick desire

Bear me, ye winds ! indulgent to my pains,
 Near some sad ruin's ghastly shade to dwell ;
 There let me fondly eye the rude remains,
 And from the mouldering refuse build my cell.

Genius of Rome ! thy prostrate pomp display,
 Trae every dismal proof of Fortune's pow'r ;
 Let me the wreck of theatres survey,
 Or pensive sit beneath some nodding tow'r.

Or where some duct, by rolling seasons worn,
 Convey'd pure streams to Rome's imperial wall ;
 Near the wide breach in silence let me mourn,
 Or tune my dirges to the water's fall.

Genius of Carthage ! paint thy ruin'd pride ;
 Towers, arches, fanes, in wild confusion strown ;
 Let banish'd Marius¹, louring by thy side,
 Compare thy fickle fortunes with his own.

Ah no ! thou monarch of the storms ! forbear ;
 My trembling nerves abhor thy rude control,
 And scarce a pleasing twilight soothes my care,
 Ere one vast death-like darkness shocks my soul.

Forbear thy rage—on no perennial base
 Is built frail Fear, or Hope's deceitful pile ;
 My pains are fled—my joy resumes its place,
 Should the sky brighten, or Melissa smile.

¹ ' Juopemque vitam in tugurio ruinarum Carthaginensium toleravit, cum Marius inspiciens Carthaginem, illa intuens Marium, alter alteri posse esse solatio.' *Liv.*

EXPLANATION.

Marius endured a life of poverty under shelter of the Carthaginian ruins ; and while he contemplated Carthage, and Carthage beheld him, they might be said mutually to resemble and account for each other.

**HE REPEATS THE SONG OF COLIN,
A DISCERNING SHEPHERD
LAMENTING THE STATE OF THE WOOLLEN MANU-
FACTORY.**

Ergo omni studio glaciem ventosque nivales,
Quo minus est illis curæ mortalis egestas,
Avertes: victumque feres.

VIRG.

Thou, therefore, in proportion to their lack
Of human aid, with all thy care defend
From frozen seasons and inclement blasts,
And give them timely food.

NEAR Avon's bank, on Arden's flowery plain,
A tuneful shepherd¹ charm'd the listening wave,
And sunny Cotsol fondly lov'd the strain,
Yet not a garland crowns the shepherd's grave !

Oh ! lost Ophelia ! smoothly flow'd the day,
To feel his music with my flames agree,
To taste the beauties of his melting lay,
To taste, and fancy it was dear to thee.

When for his tomb, with each revolving year,
I steal the musk-rose from the scented brake,
I strew my cowslips, and I pay my tear,
I'll add the myrtle for Ophelia's sake.

Shivering beneath a leafless thorn he lay, [tongue ;
When Death's chill rigour seiz'd his flowing
The more I found his faltering notes decay,
The more prophetic truth sublim'd the song.

¹ Mr. Somerville.

- ‘ Adieu, my flocks ! (he said) my wonted care,
 By sunny mountain or by verdant shore ;
 May some more happy hand your fold prepare,
 And may you need your Colin’s crook no more !
- ‘ And you, ye shepherds ! lead my gentle sheep,
 To breezy hills or leafy shelters lead ;
 But if the sky with showers incessant weep,
 Avoid the putrid moisture of the mead.
- ‘ Where the wild thyme perfumes the purpled heath,
 Long loitering, there your fleecy tribes extend—
 But what avails the maxims I bequeath ?
 The fruitless gift of an officious friend !
- ‘ Ah ! what avails the timorous lambs to guard,
 Though nightly cares with daily labours join,
 If foreign sloth obtain the rich reward,
 If Gallia’s craft the ponderous fleece purloin ?
- ‘ Was it for this, by constant vigils worn,
 I met the terrors of an early grave ?
 For this I led ‘em from the pointed thorn ?
 For this I bath’d ‘em in the lucid wave ?
- ‘ Ah ! heedless Albion ! too benignly prone
 Thy blood to lavish and thy wealth resign !
 Shall every other virtue grace thy throne,
 But quick-ey’d Prudence never yet be thine ?
- ‘ From the fair natives of this peerless hill
 Thou gav’st the sheep that browze Iberian plains ;
 Their plaintive cries the faithless region fill,
 Their fleece adorns an haughty foe’s domains.
- Ill-fated flocks ; from cliff to cliff they stray ;
 Far from their dams, their native guardians, far !
 Where the soft shepherd, all the livelong day,
 Chants his proud mistress to his hoarse guitar.

- ‘ But Albion’s youth her native fleece despise ;
 Unmov’d they hear the pining shepherd’s moan ;
 In silky folds each nervous limb disguise,
 Allur’d by every treasure but their own.
- ‘ Oft have I hurried down the rocky steep,
 Anxious to see the wintry tempest drive; [sheep !
 “ Preserve, (said I,) preserve your fleece, my
 Ere long will Phillis, will my love, arrive.”
- ‘ Ere long she came : ah, woe is me ! she came,
 Rob’d in the Gallic loom’s extraneous twine ;
 For gifts like these they give their spotless fame,
 Resign their bloom, their innocence resign.
- ‘ Will no bright maid, by worth, by titles known,
 Give the rich growth of British hills to fame ?
 And let her charms, and her example, own
 That Virtue’s dress and Beauty’s are the same ?
- ‘ Will no fam’d chief support this generous maid ?
 Once more the patriot’s arduous path resume ?
 And, comely from his native plains array’d,
 Speak future glory to the British loom ?
- ‘ What power unseen my ravish’d fancy fires ?
 I pierce the dreary shade of future days ;
 Sure ’tis the Genius of the land inspires,
 To breathe my latest breath in ** praise.
- ‘ O might my breath for ** praise suffice,
 How gently should my dying limbs repose !
 O might his future glory bless mine eyes,
 My ravish’d eyes ! how calmly would they close !
- ‘ * * * was born to spread the general joy ;
 By virtue rapt, by party uncontroll’d ;
 Britons for Britain shall the crook employ ;
 Britons for Britain’s glory shear the sold.’

WRITTEN IN SPRING, 1743.

AGAIN the labouring hind inverts the soil;
 Again the merchant ploughs the tumid wave ;
 Another spring renews the soldier's toil,
 And finds me vacant in the rural cave.

As the soft lyre display'd my wonted loves,
 The pensive pleasure and the tender pain,
 The sordid Alpheus hurried through my groves,
 Yet stop'd to vent the dictates of disdain.

He glanc'd contemptuous o'er my ruin'd fold ;
 He blam'd the graces of my favourite bow'r ;
 My breast, unsullied by the lust of gold ;
 My time, unlavish'd in pursuit of pow'r.

Yes, Alpheus ! fly the purer paths of fate ;
 Abjure these scenes, from venal passions free ;
 Know in this grove I vow'd perpetual hate,
 War, endless war, with lucre and with thee.

Here, nobly zealous, in my youthful hours
 I dress'd an altar to Thalia's name ;
Here, as I crown'd the verdant shrine with flow'rs,
 Soft on my labours stole the smiling dame.

' **D**amon, (she cried) if, pleas'd with honest praise,
 Thou court success by virtue or by song ;
Fly the false dictates of the venal race,
 Fly the gross accents of the venal tongue.

' **S**wear that no lucre shall thy zeal betray ;
 Swerve not thy foot with Fortune's vagaries more ;
Brand thou their lives, and brand their lifeless day—'
 The winning phantom urg'd me, and I swore.

Forth from the rustic altar swift I stray'd,
 'Aid my firm purpose, ye celestial Pow'r's !
 Aid me to quell the sordid breast, (I said ;)
 And threw my javelin tow'rds their hostile tow'r's¹.
 Think not regretful I survey the deed,
 Or added years no more the zeal allow ;
 Still, still observant, to the grove I speed,
 The shrine embellish, and repeat the vow.
 Sworn from his cradle Rome's relentless foe,
 Such generous hate the Punic champion² bore ;
 Thy lake, O Thrasimene ! beheld it glow,
 And Cannæ's walls and Trebia's crimson shore.
 But let grave annals paint the warrior's fame ;
 Fair shine his arms in history enroll'd ;
 Whilst humbler lyres his civil worth proclaim,
 His nobler hate of avarice and gold.—
 Nor Punic pride its final eve survey'd,
 Its hosts exhausted, and its fleets on fire ;
 Patient the victor's lurid frown obey'd,
 And saw the unwilling elephant's retire.
 But when their gold depress'd the yielding scale,
 Their gold in pyramidal plenty pil'd,
 He saw the unalterable grief prevail ;
 He saw their tears, and in his fury smil'd.
 'Think not, (he cried) ye view the smiles of ease,
 On his firm breast disclaims a patriot's pain ;
 I smile, but from a soul estrang'd to peace,
 Frantic with grief, delirious with disdain.
 'But were it cordial, this detested smile,
 Seems it less timely than the grief ye show ?
 O sons of Carthage ! grant me to revile
 The sordid source of your indecent woe.

¹ The Roman ceremony in declaring war. ² Hannibal.

' Why weep ye now? ye saw with tearless eye
 When your fleet perish'd on the Punic wave;
 Where lurk'd the coward tear, the lazy sigh,
 When Tyre's imperial state commenc'd a slave?
 ' Tis past—O Carthage! vanquish'd, honour'd shade!
 Go, the mean sorrows of thy sons deplore;
 Had Freedom shar'd the vow to Fortune paid,
 She ne'er, like Fortune, had forsook thy shore.
 He ceas'd—Abash'd the conscious audience hear,
 Their pallid cheeks a crimson blush unfold,
 Yet o'er that virtuous blush distreams a tear,
 And falling, moistens their abandon'd gold.³

HE COMPARES HIS HUMBLE FORTUNE WITH THE DISTRESS OF OTHERS, AND HIS SUBJECTION TO DELIA WITH THE MISERABLE SERVITUDE OF AN AFRICAN SLAVE.

Why droops this heart with fancied woes forlorn?
 Why sinks my soul beneath each wintry sky?
 What pensive crowds, by ceaseless labours worn,
 What myriads wish to be as bless'd as I!
 What though my roof devoid of pomp arise,
 Nor tempt the proud to quit his destin'd way?
 Nor costly art my flowery dales disguise,
 Where only simple Friendship deigns to stray?
 See the wild sons of Lapland's chill domain,
 That scoop their couch beneath the drifted snows!
 How void of hope they ken the frozen plain,
 Where the sharp east for ever, ever blows!

³ By the terms forced upon the Carthaginians by Scipio, they were to deliver up all the elephants, and to pay near two millions sterling.

Slave though I be, to Delia's eyes a slave,
 My Delia's eyes endear the bands I wear ;
 The sigh she causes, well becomes the brave ;
 The pang she causes, 'tis ev'n bliss to bear.

See the poor native quit the Libyan shores,
 Ah ! not in love's delightful fetters bound :
 No radiant smile his dying peace restores,
 Nor love, nor fame, nor friendship, heals his wound.

Let vacant bards display their boasted woes ;
 Shall I the mockery of grief display ?
 No ; let the Muse his piercing pangs disclose,
 Who bleeds and weeps his sum of life away !

On the wild beach in mournful guise he stood,
 Ere the shrill boatswain gave the hated sign ;
 He drop'd a tear unseen into the flood,
 He stole one secret moment to repine.

Yet the Muse listen'd to the plaints he made,
 Such moving plaints as Nature could inspire ;
 To me the Muse his tender plea convey'd,
 But smooth'd and suited to the sounding lyre.

' Why am I ravish'd from my native strand ?
 What savage race protects this impious gain ?
 Shall foreign plagues infest this teeming land, [main] ?
 And more than sea-born monsters plough the

' Here the dire locusts' horrid swarms prevail ;
 Here the blue asps with livid poison swell ;
 Here the dry dipsa writhes his sinuous mail ;
 Can we not here secure from envy dwell ?

' When the grim lion urg'd his cruel chase,
 When the stern panther songht his midnight prey ;
 What fate reserv'd me for this Christian race ?
 O race more polish'd, more severe, than they !

¹ Spoken by a Savage.

- ‘ Ye prowling wolves! pursue my latest cries;
 Thou, hungry tiger! leave thy reeking den;
 Ye sandy wastes! in rapid eddies rise;
 O tear me from the whips and scorns of men!
- ‘ Yet in their face superior beauty glows;
 Are smiles the mien of rapine and of wrong?
 Yet from their lips the voice of mercy flows,
 And ev’n religion dwells upon their tongue.
- ‘ Of blissful haunts they tell, and brighter climes,
 Where gentle minds, convey’d by Death, repair;
 But stain’d with blood, and crimson’d o’er with
 crimes,
 Say, shall they merit what they paint so fair?
- ‘ No : careless, hopeless of those fertile plains,
 Rich by our toils, and by our sorrows gay;
 They ply our labours and enhance our pains,
 And feign those distant regions to repay.
- ‘ For them our tusky elephant expires;
 For them we drain the mine’s embowell’d gold;
 Where rove the brutal nations’ wild desires?—
 Our limbs are purchas’d, and our life is sold!
- ‘ Yet shores there are, bless’d shores for us remain,
 And favour’d isles, with golden fruitage crown’d,
 Where tufted flowerets paint the verdant plain,
 Where every breeze shall med’cine every wound.
- ‘ There the stern tyrant that embitters life
 Shall, vainly suppliant, spread his asking hand;
 There shall we view the billows’ raging strife,
 Aid the kind breast, and waft his boat to land.’

TAKING A VIEW OF THE COUNTRY FROM HIS RETIREMENT, HE IS LED TO MEDITATE ON THE CHARACTER OF THE ANCIENT BRITONS. WRITTEN AT THE TIME OF A RUMOURED TAX UPON LUXURY, 1746.

THUS Damon sung—‘ What though unknown to praise,

Umbrageous coverts hide my Muse and me,
Or mid the rural shepherds flow my days:
Amid the rural shepherds I am free.

‘ To view sleek vassals crowd a stately hall,
Say, should I grow myself a solemn slave?
To find thy tints, O Titian! grace my wall,
Forego the flowery fields my fortune gave?

‘ Lord of my time, my devious path I bend
Through fringy woodland, or smooth-shaven lawn,
Or pensile grove, or airy cliff ascend;
And hail the scene by nature’s pencil drawn.

‘ Thanks be to Fate—though nor the racy vine,
Nor fattening olive clothe the fields I rove;
Sequester’d shades and gurgling founts are mine,
And every sylvan grot the Muses love.

‘ Here if my vista point the mouldering pile,
Where hood and cowl Devotion’s aspect wore;
I trace the tottering relics with a smile,
To think the mental bondage is no more.

‘ Pleas’d if the glowing landscape wave with corn,
Or the tall oaks, my country’s bulwark, rise;
Pleas’d if mine eye, o’er thousand vallies borne,
Discern the Cambrian hills support the skies.

- ‘ And see, Plinlimmon ! ev’n the youthful sight
 Scales the proud hill’s ethereal cliffs with pain :
 Such, Caer-Caradoc ! thy stupendous height,
 Whose ample shade obscures the’ Iernian main.
- ‘ Bleak, joyless regions ! where, by Science fir’d,
 Some prying sage his lonely step may bend ;
 There, by the love of novel plants inspir’d,
 Invidious view the clambering goats ascend.
- ‘ Yet for those mountains, clad with lasting snow,
 The free-born Briton left his greenest mead,
 Receding sullen from his mightier foe,
 For here he saw fair Liberty recede.
- ‘ Then, if a chief perform’d a patriot’s part,
 Sustain’d her drooping sons, repell’d her foes ;
 Above or Persian luxe or Attic art,
 The rude majestic monument arose.
- ‘ Progressive ages caroll’d forth his fame,
 Sires to his praise attun’d their children’s tongue,
 The hoary druid fed the generous flame,
 While in such strains the reverend wizard sung :
- “ Go forth, my sons !—for what is vital breath,
 Your gods expell’d, your liberty resign’d ?
 Go forth, my sons !—for what is instant death
 To souls secure perennial joys to find ?
- “ For scenes there are, unknown to war or pain,
 Where drops the balm that heals a tyrant’s wound ;
 Where patriots, bless’d with boundless freedom,
 reign,
 With mistletoe’s mysterious garlands crown’d,

“ Such are the names that grace your mystic songs,
 Your solemn woods resound their martial fire;
 To you, my sons ! the ritual meed belongs,
 If in the cause you vanquish or expire.

“ Hark ! from the sacred oak that crowns the groves
 What awful voice my raptur'd bosom warms !
 This is the favour'd moment Heaven approves,
 Sound the shrill trump ; this instant sound, to
 arms.”

“ Theirs was the science of a martial race,
 To shape the lance or decorate the shield ;
 Ev'n the fair virgin stain'd her native grace
 To give new horrors to the tented field.

“ Now for some cheek where guilty blushes glow,
 For some false Florimel's impure disguise ;
 The listed youth nor War's loud signal know,
 Nor Virtue's call, nor Fame's imperial prize.

“ Then, if soft concord lull'd their fears to sleep,
 Inert and silent slept the manly car,
 But rush'd horrific o'er the fearful steep,
 If freedom's awful clarion breath'd to war.

“ Now the sleek courtier, indolent and vain,
 Thron'd in the splendid carriage, glides supine,
 To taint his virtue with a foreign strain,
 Or at a favourite's board his faith resign.

“ Leave then, O Luxury ! this happy soil ;
 Chase her, Britannia ! to some hostile shore ;
 Or fleece the baneful pest with annual spoil ¹,
 And let thy virtuous offspring weep no more.”

¹ Alludes to a tax upon luxury, then in debate.

WRITTEN IN THE YEAR ——, WHEN THE RIGHTS
OF SEPULTURE WERE SO FREQUENTLY VIOLATED.

SAY, gentle Sleep ! that lov'st the gloom of night,
Parent of dreams ! thou great magician ! say,
Whence my late vision thus endures the light,
Thus haunts my fancy through the glare of day.

The silent moon had scal'd the vaulted skies,
And anxious Care resign'd my limbs to rest ;
A sudden lustre struck my wondering eyes,
And Silvia stood before my couch confess'd.

Ah ! not the nymph so blooming and so gay,
That led the dance beneath the festive shade,
But she that, in the morning of her day,
Entomb'd beneath the grass-green sod was laid.

No more her eyes their wonted radiance cast,
No more her breast inspir'd the lover's flame ;
No more her cheek the Pæstan rose surpass'd,
Yet seem'd her lip's ethereal smile the same.

Nor such her hair as deck'd her living face,
Nor such her voice as charm'd the listening crowd ;
Nor such her dress as heighten'd every grace ;
Alas ! all vanish'd for the mournful shroud.

Yet seem'd her lip's ethereal charm the same ;
That dear distinction every doubt remov'd ;
Perish the lover whose imperfect flame
Forgets one feature of the nymph he lov'd !

‘ Damon,’ she said, ‘ mine hour allotted flies ;
Oh ! do not waste it with a fruitless tear :
Though griev'd to see thy Silvia's pale disguise,
Suspend thy sorrow, and attentive hear.

- ‘ So may thy muse with virtuous fame be bless’d !
So be thy love with mutual love repaid !
So may thy bones in sacred silence rest !
Fast by the relics of some happier maid !
- ‘ Thou know’st how, lingering on a distant shore,
Disease invidious nipt my flowery prime ;
And, oh ! what pangs my tender bosom tore,
To think I ne’er must view my native clime !
- ‘ No friend was near to raise my drooping head,
No dear companion wept to see me die ;
“ Lodge me within my native soil ;” I said,
“ There my fond parents’ honour’d relics lie.
- “ Though now debar’d of each domestic tear,
Unknown, forgot, I meet the fatal blow ;
There many a friend shall grace my woeful bier,
And many a sigh shall rise and tear shall flow.”
- ‘ I spoke, nor Fate forebore his trembling spoil ;
Some venal mourner lent his careless aid,
And soon they bore me to my native soil,
Where my fond parents’ dear remains were laid.
- ‘ ’Twas then the youths from every plain and grove
Adorn’d with mournful verse thy Silvia’s bier ;
’Twas then the nymphs their votive garlands wove,
And strew’d the fragrance of the youthful year.
- ‘ But why, alas ! the tender scene display ?
Could Damon’s foot the pious path decline ?
Ah, no ! ’twas Damon first attun’d his lay,
And sure no sonnet was so dear as thine.
- ‘ Thus was I bosom’d in the peaceful grave,
My placid ghost no longer wept its doom ;
When savage robbers every sanction brave,
And with outrageous guilt defraud the tomb.

- ‘ Shall my poor corse, from hostile realms convey’d,
Lose the cheap portion of my native sands?
Or, in my kindred’s dear embraces laid,
Mourn the vile ravage of barbarian hands?
- ‘ Say, would thy breast no deathlike torture feel,
To see my limbs the felon’s gripe obey?
To see them gash’d beneath the daring steel?
To crowds a spectre, and to dogs a prey?
- ‘ If Paean’s sons these horrid rites require,
If Health’s fair science be by these refin’d;
Let guilty convicts for their use expire,
And let their breathless corse avail mankind.
- Yet hard it seems, when Guilt’s last fine is paid,
To see the victim’s corse denied repose;
Now, more severe, the poor offenceless maid
Dreads the dire outrage of inhuman foes.
- ‘ Where is the faith of ancient pagans fled?
Where the fond care the wandering manes claim?
Nature, instinctive, cries, “ Protect the dead;
And sacred be their ashes and their fame!”
- ‘ Arise, dear youth! ev’n now the danger calls;
Ev’n now the villain snuffs his wonted prey;
See! see! I lead thee to yon sacred walls—
Oh! fly to chase these human wolves away.’

*REFLECTIONS
SUGGESTED BY HIS SITUATION.*

BORN near the scene for Kenelm's¹ fate renown'd,
 I take my plaintive reed, and range the grove,
 And raise my lay, and bid the rocks resound
 The savage force of empire and of love.

Fast by the centre of yon various wild,
 Where spreading oaks embower a Gothic fane,
 Kendrida's arts a brother's youth beguil'd ;
 There nature urg'd her tenderest pleas in vain.

Soft o'er his birth, and o'er his infant hours,
 The ambitious maid could every care employ ;
 Then with assiduous fondness cropt the flow'rs,
 To deck the cradle of the princely boy.

But soon the bosom's pleasing calm is flown ;
 Love fires her breast ; the sultry passions rise :
 A favour'd lover seeks the Mercian throne,
 And views her Kenelm with a rival's eyes.

How kind were Fortune ! ah, how just were Fate !
 Would Fate or Fortune Mercia's heir remove !
 How sweet to revel on the couch of state !
 To crown at once her lover and her love !

See, garnish'd for the chase, the fraudulent maid
 To these lone hills direct his devious way ;
 The youth, all prone, the sister-guide obey'd,
 Ill-fated youth ! himself the destin'd prey.

¹ Kenelm, in the Saxon heptarchy, was heir to the kingdom of Mercia ; but being very young at his father's death, was, by the artifices of his sister and her lover, deprived of his crown and life together. The body was found in a piece of ground near the top of Clent Hill, exactly facing Mr. Shenton's house, near which place a church was afterwards erected to his memory, still used for divine worship, and called St. Kenelm's. See Plot's History of Staffordshire.

But now, nor shaggy hill nor pathless plain
Forms the lone refuge of the silvan game,
Since Lyttelton has crown'd the sweet domain
With softer pleasures and with fairer fame.

Where the rough Bowman urg'd his headlong steed,
Immortal bards, a polish'd race, retire; [succeed
And where hoarse scream'd the strepent horn,
The melting graces of no vulgar lyre.

See Thomson, loitering near some limpid well,
For Britain's friend the verdant wreath prepare!
Or, studious of revolving seasons, tell
How peerless Lucia made all seasons fair!

See *** from civic garlands fly,
And in these groves indulge his tuneful vein!
Or from yon summit, with a guardian's eye,
Observe how Freedom's hand attires the plain!

Here Pope!—ah, never must that towering mind
To his lov'd haunts or dearer friend return!
What art, what friendships! oh, what fame resign'd!
—In yonder glade I trace his mournful urn.

Where is the breast can rage or hate retain,
And these glad streams and smiling lawns behold?
Where is the breast can hear the woodland strain,
And think fair Freedom well exchang'd for gold?

Through these soft shades delighted let me stray,
While o'er my head forgotten suns descend!
Through these dear vallies bend my casual way,
Till setting life a total shade extend!

Here far from courts, and void of pompous cares,
I'll muse how much I owe mine humbler fate;
Or shrink to find how much Ambition dares,
To shine in anguish, and to grieve in state!

Canst thou, O Sun ! that spotless throne disclose,
Where her bold arm has left no sanguine stain ?
Where, show me where, the lineal sceptre glows,
Pure as the simple crook that rules the plain ?

Tremendous pomp ! where hate, distrust, and fear,
In kindred bosoms solve the social tie ;
There not the parent's smile is half sincere,
Nor void of art the consort's melting eye,

There with the friendly wish, the kindly flame,
No face is brighten'd and no bosoms beat ;
Youth, manhood, age, avow one sordid aim,
And ev'n the beardless lip essays deceit.

There coward Rumours walk their murderous round ;
The glance that more than rural blame instils :
Whispers that ting'd with friendship, doubly wound ;
Pity that injures, and concern that kills.

There anger whets, but love can ne'er engage ;
Caressing brothers part but to revile ;
There all men smile, and Prudence warns the sage
To dread the fatal stroke of all that smile.

There all are rivals ! sister, son, and sire,
With horrid purpose hug destructive arms ;
There soft-ey'd maids in murderons plots conspire,
And scorn the gentler mischief of their charms.

Let servile minds one endless watch endure !
Day, night, nor hour, their anxious guard resign ;
But lay me, Fate ! on flowery banks secure,
Though my whole soul be, like my limbs, supine.

Yes ; may my tongue disdain a vassal's care ;
My lyre resound no prostituted lays ;
More warm to merit, more elate to wear
The cap of Freedom than the crown of bays.

Sooth'd by the murmurs of my pebbled flood,
 I wish it not o'er golden sands to flow ;
 Cheer'd by the verdure of my spiral wood,
 I scorn the quarry where no shrub can grow.
 No midnight pangs the shepherd's peace pursue ;
 His tongue, his hand, attempts no secret wound ;
 He sings his Delia ; and, if she be true,
 His love at once and his ambition's crown'd.

HE TAKES OCCASION, FROM THE FATE OF ELEANOR OF BRETAGNE¹, TO SUGGEST THE IMPERFECT PLEASURES OF A SOLITARY LIFE.

WHEN Beauty mourns, by Fate's injurious doom,
 Hid from the cheerful glance of human eye ;
 When Nature's pride inglorious waits the tomb,
 Hard is that heart which checks the rising sigh.
 Fair Eleonora ! would no gallant mind
 The cause of Love, the cause of Justice, own ?
 Matchless thy charms, and was no life resign'd
 To see them sparkle from their native throne ?
 Or had fair Freedom's hand unveil'd thy charms,
 Well might such brows the regal gem resign ;
 Thy radiant mien might scorn the guilt of arms,
 Yet Albion's awful empire yield to thine.
 O shame of Britons ! in one sullen tow'r
 She wet with royal tears her daily cell ;
 She found keen anguish every rose devour :
 They sprung, they shone, they faded, and they fell.

¹ Eleanor of Bretagne, the lawful heiress of the English crown, upon the death of Arthur, in the reign of King John. She was esteemed the beauty of her time; was imprisoned forty years (till the time of her death) in Bristol Castle.

Through one dim lattice, fring'd with ivy round,
 Successive suns a languid radiance threw,
 To paint how fierce her angry guardian frown'd,
 To mark how fast her waning beauty flew.

This Age might bear; then sated Fancy palls,
 Nor warmly hopes what splendour can supply;
 Fond youth incessant mourns, if rigid walls
 Restraine its listening ear, its curious eye.

Believe me ** the pretence is vain!
 This boasted calm that smooths our early days;
 For never yet could youthful mind restrain
 The alternate pant for pleasure and for praise.

Ev'n me, by shady oak, or limpid spring,
 Ev'n me, the scenes of polish'd life allure;
 Some Genius whispers, ' Life is on the wing,
 And hard his lot that languishes obscure.

' What though thy riper mind admire no more—
 The shining cincture and the broider'd fold
 Can pierce like lightning through the figur'd ore,
 And melt to dross the radiant forms of gold.

' Fars, ermines, rods, may well attract thy scorn,
 The futile presents of capricious Pow'r!
 But wit, but worth, the public sphere adorn;
 And who but envies then the social hour?

' Can Virtue, careless of her pupil's meed,
 Forget how ** sustains the shepherd's cause?
 Content in shades to tune a lonely reed,
 Nor join the sounding pæan of applause?

' For public haunts, impell'd by Britain's weal,
 See Grenville quit the Muse's favourite ease;
 And shall not swains admire his noble zeal?
 Admiring praise, admiring strive to please?

- ‘ Life (says the sage) affords no bliss sincere,
 And courts and cells in vain our hopes renew ;
 But ah ! where Grenville charms the listening ear,
 ‘Tis hard to think the cheerless maxim true.
- ‘ The groves may smile, the rivers gently glide,
 Soft through the vale resonnd the lonesome lay ;
 Ev’n thickets yield delight, if taste preside,
 · But can they please when Lyttelton’s away ?
- ‘ Pure as the swain’s the breast of ** glows ;
 Ah, were the shepherd’s phrase like his refin’d !
 But how improv’d the generous dictate flows
 Through the clear medium of a polish’d mind !
- ‘ Happy the youths who, warm with Britain’s love,
 Her iu most wish in ** periods hear !
 Happy that in the radiant circle move,
 Attendant orbs, where Lonsdale gilds the sphere !
- ‘ While rural faith, and ev’ry polish’d art,
 Each friendly charm, in *** conspire,
 From public scenes all pensive must you part ;
 All joyless to the greenest fields retire !
- ‘ Go, plaintive youth ! no more by fount or stream,
 Like some lone halcyon, social pleasure shun ;
 Go, dare the light ; enjoy its cheerful beam,
 And hail the bright procession of the sun.
- ‘ Then, cover’d by thy ripen’d shades, resigne
 The silent walk, no more by passion toss’d ;
 Then seek thy rustic haunts, the dreary gloom,
 Where every art that colours life is lost.’—
- In vain ! the listening Muse attends in vain !
 Restraints in hostile bands her motions wait—
 Yet will I grieve, and sadden all my strain,
 When injur’d Beauty mourns the Muse’s fate.

TO DELIA, WITH SOME FLOWERS:
COMPLAINING HOW MUCH HIS BENEVOLENCE SUFFERS ON ACCOUNT OF HIS HUMBLE FORTUNE.

Whate'er could Sculpture's curious art employ,
Whate'er the lavish hand of Wealth can show'r,
These would I give—and every gift enjoy
That pleas'd my fair—but Fate denies my pow'r.

Bless'd were my lot to feed the social fires!
To learn the latent wishes of a friend!
To give the boon his native taste admires,
And for my transport on his smile depend!

Bless'd, too, is he whose evening ramble strays
Where droop the sons of Indigence and Care!
His little gifts their gladden'd eyes amaze,
And win, at small expense, their fondest pray'r!

And, oh! the joy, to shun the conscious light;
To spare the modest blush; to give unseen:
Like showers that fall behind the veil of night,
Yet deeply tinge the smiling vales with green.

But happiest they who drooping realms relieve!
Whose virtues in our cultur'd vales appear!
For whose sad fate a thousand shepherds grieve,
And fading fields allow the grief sincere.

To call lost Worth from its oppressive shade,
To fix its equal sphere, and see it shine;
To hear it grateful own the generous aid;
This, this is transport—but must ne'er be mine!

Faint is my bounded bliss ; nor I refuse
To range where daisies open, rivers roll,
While prose or song the languid hours amuse,
And soothe the fond impatience of my soul.

Awhile I'll weave the roofs of jasmine bow'rs,
And urge with trivial cares the loitering year;
Awhile I'll prune my grove, protect my flow'rs,
Then, unlamented, press an early bier !

Of those lov'd flowers the lifeless corse may share,
Some hireling hand a fading wreath bestow ;
The rest will breathe as sweet, will glow as fair,
As when their master smil'd to see them glow.

The sequent morn shall wake the silvan quire ;
The kid again shall wanton ere 'tis noon ;
Nature will smile, will wear her best attire ;
O, let not gentle Delia smile so soon !

While the rude hearse conveys me slow away,
And careless eyes my vulgar fate proclaim ;
Let thy kind tear my utmost worth o'erpay,
And, softly sighing, vindicate my fame.—

O Delia ! cheer'd by thy superior praise,
I bless the silent path the Fates decree ;
Pleas'd, from the list of my inglorious days
To rase the moments crown'd with bliss and thee.

**DESCRIBING THE SORROW OF AN INGENUOUS MIND
ON THE MELANCHOLY EVENT OF A LICENTIOUS
AMOUR.**

WHY mourns my friend? why weeps his downcast eye?

That eye where mirth, where fancy, us'd to shine;
Thy cheerful meads reprove that swelling sigh;
Spring ne'er enamell'd fairer meads than thine.

Art thou not lodg'd in Fortune's warm embrace?

Wert thou not form'd by Nature's partial care?
Bless'd in thy song, and bless'd in every grace

That wins the friend, or that enchant's the fair!

'Damon,' said he, 'thy partial praise restrain;

Not Damon's friendship can my peace restore:
Alas! his very praise awakes my pain,

And my poor wounded bosom bleeds the more.

'For, oh! that Nature on my birth had frown'd,
Or Fortune fix'd me to some lowly cell:

Then had my bosom 'scap'd this fatal wound,
Nor had I bid these vernal sweets farewell.

'But led by Fortune's hand, her darling child,
My youth her vain licentious bliss admir'd;

In Fortune's train the siren Flattery smil'd,
And rashly hallow'd all her queen inspir'd.

'Of folly studious, ev'n of vices vain,
Ah, vices gilded by the rich and gay!

I chas'd the guileless daughters of the plain,
Nor drop'd the chase, till Jessy was my prey.

'Poor artless maid! to stain thy spotless name
Expense, and art, and toil, united strove;
To lure a breast that felt the purest flame,
Sustain'd by virtue, but betray'd by love.

- ‘ School’d in the science of Love’s mazy wiles,
 I cloth’d each feature with affected scorn ;
 I spoke of jealous doubts and fickle smiles,
 And, feigning, left her anxious and forlorn.
- ‘ Then while the fancied rage alarm’d her care,
 Warm to deny, and zealous to disprove,
 I bade my words the wonted softness wear,
 And seiz’d the minute of returning love.
- ‘ To thee, my Damon, dare I paint the rest ?
 Will yet thy love a candid ear incline ?
 Assur’d that virtue, by misfortune press’d,
 Feels not the sharpness of a pang like mine.
- ‘ Nine envious moons matur’d her growing shame,
 Ere while to flaunt it in the face of day ;
 When, scorn’d of Virtue, stigmatiz’d by Fame,
 Low at my feet desponding Jessy lay.’
- “ Henry,” she said, “ by thy dear form subdu’d,
 See the sad relics of a nymph undone !
 I find, I find this rising sob renew’d ;
 I sigh in shades, and sicken at the sun.
- “ Amid the dreary gloom of night I cry,
 When will the morn’s once pleasing scenes return ?
 Yet what can morn’s returning ray supply,
 But foes that triumph, or but friends that mourn !
- “ Alas ! no more that joyous morn appears,
 That led the tranquil hours of spotless fame ;
 For I have steep’d a father’s couch in tears,
 And ting’d a mother’s glowing cheek with shame.
- “ The vocal birds that raise their matin strain,
 The sportive lambs, increase my pensive moan ;
 All seem to chase me from the cheerful plain,
 And talk of truth and innocence alone.

- “ If through the garden’s flowery tribes I stray,
Where bloom the jasmines that could once allure,
‘ Hope not to find delight in us,’ they say,
‘ For we are spotless, Jessy ; we are pure.’
- “ Ye flowers ! that well reproach a nymph so frail,
Say, could ye with my virgin fame compare ?
The brightest bud that scents the vernal gale
Was not so fragrant, and was not so fair.
- “ Now the grave old alarm the gentler young,
And all my fame’s abhor’d contagion flee ;
Trembles each lip, and falters every tongue,
That bids the morn propitious smile on me.
- “ Thus for your sake I shun each human eye,
I bid the sweets of blooming youth adieu ;
To die I languish, but I dread to die,
Lest my sad fate should nourish pangs for you.
- “ Raise me from earth ; the pains of want remove,
And let me, silent, seek some friendly shore ;
There only, banish’d from the form I love,
My weeping virtue shall relapse no more.
- “ Be but my friend ; I ask no dearer name ;
Be such the meed of some more artful fair ;
Nor could it heal my peace or chase my shame,
That Pity gave what Love refus’d to share.
- “ Force not my tongue to ask its scanty bread,
Nor hurl thy Jessy to the vulgar crew ;
Not such the parent’s board at which I fed !
Not such the precept from his lips I drew !
- “ Haply, when age has silver’d o’er my hair,
Malice may learn to scorn so mean a spoil ;
Envy may slight a face no longer fair,
And Pity welcome to my native soil.”—

- ‘ She spoke—nor was I born of savage race ;
Nor could these hands a niggard boon assign ;
Grateful she clasp’d me in a last embrace,
And vow’d to waste her life in prayers for mine.
- ‘ I saw her foot the lofty bark ascend,
I saw her breast with every passion heave ;—
I left her—torn from every earthly friend ;
Oh, my hard bosom, which could bear to leave !
- ‘ Brief let me be : the fatal storm arose ;
The billows rag’d, the pilot’s art was vain ;
O’er the tall mast the circling surges close ;
My Jessy—floats upon the watery plain !
- ‘ And—see my youth’s impetuous fires decay ;
Seek not to stop Reflection’s bitter tear ;
But warn the frolic, and instruct the gay,
From Jessy floating on her watery bier !’

LEVITIES:
OR,
PIECES OF HUMOUR.

FLIRT AND PHIL:

A DECISION FOR THE LADIES.

A wit, by learning well refin'd,
A beau, but of the rural kind,
To Silvia made pretences ;
They both profess'd an equal love,
Yet hop'd by different means to move
Her judgment, or her senses.

Young sprightly Flirt, of blooming mien,
Watch'd the best minutes to be seen,
Went—when his glass advis'd him ;
While meagre Phil of books inquir'd,
A wight for wit and parts admir'd,
And witty ladies priz'd him.

Silvia had wit, had spirits too ;
To hear the one, the other view,
Suspended held the scales :
Her wit, her youth, too, claim'd its share ;
Let none the preference declare,
But turn up—heads or tails.

**TO THE MEMORY OF AN AGREEABLE
LADY.**

BURIED IN MARRIAGE

TO A PERSON UNDESERVING HER.

'TWAS always held, and ever will
By sage mankind, discreeter
To' anticipate a lesser ill,
Than undergo a greater.

When mortals dread diseases, pain,
And languishing conditions ;
Who don't the lesser ills sustain
Of physic—and physicians ?

Rather than lose his whole estate,
He that but little wise is,
Full gladly pays four parts in eight
To taxes and excises.

Our merchants Spain has near undone
For lost ships not requiting ;
This bears our noble K—, to shun
The loss of blood—in fighting !

With numerous ills, in single life,
The bachelor's attended ;
Such to avoid he takes a wife—
And much the case is mended !

Poor Gratia, in her twentieth year,
Foreseeing future woe,
Chose to attend a monkey here
Before an ape below.

COLEMIRA.

A CULINARY ECLOGUE.

Nec tantum Veneris, quantum studiosa culinæ.

In sensible of soft desire
Behold Colemira prove
More partial to the kitchen fire
Than to the fire of Love.

NIGHT's sable clouds had half the globe o'erspread,
And silence reign'd, and folks were gone to bed,
When love, which gentle sleep can ne'er inspire,
Had seated Daimon by the kitchen-fire.

Pensive he lay, extended on the ground,
The little Lares kept their vigils round ;
The fawning cats compassionate his case,
And pur around, and gently lick his face :

To all his plaints the sleeping curs reply,
And with hoarse snorings imitate a sigh.
Such gloomy scenes with lovers' minds agree,
And solitude to them is best society.

' Could I,' he cried, ' express how bright a grace
Adorns thy morning hands and well-wash'd face,
Thou wouldest, Colemira, graut what I implore,
And yield me love, or wash thy face no more.'

' Ah ! who can see, and seeing not admire,
Whene'er she sets the pot upon the fire !
Her hands outshine the fire and redder things ;
Her eyes are blacker than the pots she brings.'

' But sure no chamber-damsel can compare,
When in meridian lustre shines my fair,
When warm'd with dinner's toil, in pearly rills,
Adown her goodly cheek the sweat distils.

' Oh ! how I long, how ardently desire,
To view those rosy fingers strike the lyre !
For late, when bees to change their climes began,
How did I see 'em thrum the frying-pan !

' With her I should not envy G— his queen,
Though she in royal grandeur deck'd be seen ;
Whilst rags, just sever'd from my fair-one's gown,
In russet pomp and greasy pride hang down.

' Ah ! how it does my drooping heart rejoice,
When in the hall I hear thy mellow voice !
How would that voice exceed the village bell,
Wouldst thou but sing, " I like thee passing well ! "

' When from the hearth she bade the pointers go,
How soft, how easy, did her accents flow !

" Get out, (she cried;) when strangers come to sup,
One ne'er can raise those snoring devils up."

' Then, full of wrath, she kick'd each lazy brute,
Alas ! I envied even that salute :
' Twas sure misplac'd—Shock said, or seem'd to say,
" He had as lief I had the kick as they."

' If she the mystic bellows take in hand,
Who like the fair can that machine command ?
O may'st thou ne'er by Æolus be seen,
For he would sure demand thee for his queen !

' But should the flame this rougher aid refuse,
And only gentler medicines be of use,
With full-blown cheeks she ends the doubtful strife,
Foments the infant flame, and puffs it into life.

' Such arts as these exalt the drooping fire,
 But in my breast a fiercer flame inspire :
 I burn ! I burn ! O, give thy puffing o'er,
 And swell thy cheeks and pout thy lips no more !

' With all her haughty looks, the time I've seen
 When this proud damsel has more humble been ;
 When with nice airs she hoist the pancake round,
 And dropt it, hapless fair ! upon the ground.

' Look, with what charming grace, what winning
 tricks,
 The artful charmer rubs the candlesticks !
 So bright she makes the candlesticks she handles,
 Oft have I said—" there were no need of candles."

' But thou, my fair ! who never would'st approve,
 Or hear the tender story of my love,
 Or mind how burns my raging breast—a button—
 Perhaps art dreaming of—a breast of mutton.'

Thus said, and wept, the sad desponding swain,
 Revealing to the sable walls his pain :
 But nymphs are free with those they should deny ;
 To those they love more exquisitely coy.

Now chirping crickets raise their tinkling voice, }
 The lambent flames in languid streams arise, }
 And smoke in azure folds evaporates and dies. }

ON CERTAIN PASTORALS.

So rude and tuneless are thy lays,
 The weary audience vow—
 'Tis not the' Arcadian swain that sings,
 But 'tis his herds that low.

THE RAPE OF THE TRAP.

TWAS in a land of learning,
 The Muses' favourite city,
 Such pranks of late
 Were play'd by a rat,
 As—tempt one to be witty:

All in a college-study,
 Where books were in great plenty,
 This rat would devour
 More sense in an hour
 Than I could write—in twenty.

Corporeal food, 'tis granted,
 Serves vermin less refin'd, Sir ;
 But this a rat of taste,
 All other rats surpass'd,
 And he prey'd on the food of the mind, Sir.

His breakfast half the morning
 He constantly attended ;
 And when the bell rung
 For evening song
 His dinner scarce was ended !

He spar'd not ev'n heroics,
 On which we poets pride us,
 And would make no more
 Of King Arthurs¹ by the score,
 Than—all the world beside does.

¹ By Sir Richard Blackmore.

In books of geo-graphy
 He made the maps to flutter ;
 A river or a sea
 Was to him a dish of tea,
 And a kingdom bread and butter.

But if some mawkish potion
 Might chance to overdose him,
 To check its rage
 He took a page
 Of logic—to compose him.

A Trap, in haste and anger,
 Was bought, you need not doubt on't ;
 And such was the gin,
 Were a lion once got in,
 He could not, I think, get out on't.

With cheese, not books, 'twas baited ;
 The fact—I'll not belie it—
 Since none—I tell you that—
 Whether scholar or rat,
 Minds books when he has other diet,

But more of Trap and bait, Sir,
 Why should I sing, of either ?
 Since the rat, who knew the sleight,
 Came in the dead of night,
 And drag'd 'em away together.

Both Trap and bait were vanish'd
 Through a fracture in the flooring,
 Which though so trim
 It now may seem,
 Had then—a dozen or more in.

Then answer this, ye sages!
 Nor deem I mean to wrong ye,
 Had the rat, which thus did seize on
 The Trap, less claim to reason
 Than many a scull among ye?

Dan Prior's mice, I own it,
 Were vermin of condition;
 But this rat, who merely learn'd
 What rats alone concern'd,
 Was the greater politician.

That England's topsy-turvy
 Is clear from these mishaps, Sir;
 Since Traps, we may determine,
 Will no longer take our vermin,
 But vermin² take our Traps, Sir.

Let sophs, by rats infested,
 Then trust in cats to catch 'em,
 Lest they grow as learn'd as we
 In our studies, where, d'ye see,
 No mortal sits to watch 'em.

Good luck betide our captains,
 Good luck betide our cats, Sir!
 And grant that the one
 May quell the Spanish Don,
 And the other destroy our rats, Sir.

* Written at the time of the Spanish depredations.

ON MR. C.—

OF KIDDERMINSTER'S POETRY.

THY verses, Friend ! are Kidderminster¹ stuff,
And I must own—you've measur'd out enough.

TO THE VIRTUOSOS.

HAIL, curious wights ! to whom so fair
The form of mortal flies is ;
Who deem those grubs beyond compare,
Which common sense despises.

Whether o'er hill, morass, or mound,
You make your sportsman-sallies ;
Or that your prey, in gardens found,
Is urg'd through walks and allies ;

Yet in the fury of the chase
No slope could e'er retard you ;
Bless'd if one fly repay the race,
Or painted wing reward you.

Fierce as Camilla² o'er the plain
Pursued the glittering stranger,
Still ey'd the purple's pleasing stain,
And knew not fear nor danger.

'Tis you dispense the favourite meat
To Nature's filmy people ;
Know what conserves they choose to eat,
And what liqueurs to tipple :

¹ Kidderminster, famous for a coarse woollen manufacture.
² See Virgil.

And if her brood of insects dies,
 You sage assistance lend her ;
 Can stoop to pimp for amorous flies,
 And help 'em to engender.

'Tis you protect their pregnant hour ;
 And, when the birth's at hand,
 Exerting your obstetric pow'r,
 Prevent a mothless land.

Yet, oh ! howe'er your tow'ring view
 Above gross objects rises,
 Whate'er refinements you pursue,
 Hear what a friend advises :

A friend who, weigh'd with your's, must prize
 Domitian's idle passion,
 That wrought the death of teasing flies,
 But ne'er their propagation.

Let Flavia's eyes more deeply warm,
 Nor thus your hearts determine—
 To slight Dame Nature's fairest form,
 And sigh for Nature's vermin :

And speak with some respect of beaus,
 Nor more as triflers treat 'em ;
 'Tis better learn to save one's clothes
 Than cherish moths that eat 'em.

THE EXTENT OF COOKERY.

Aliusque et idem.
Another and the same.

WHEN Tom to Cambridge first was sent,
A plain brown bob he wore,
Read much, and look'd as though he meant
To be a fop no more.

See him to Lincoln's-Inn repair,
His resolutions flag,
He cherishes a length of hair,
And tucks it in a bag.

Nor Coke nor Salkeld he regards,
But gets into the House ;
And soon a judge's rank rewards
His pliant votes and bows.

Adieu, ye bobs ! ye bags ! give place ;
Full bottoms come instead :
Good L—d ! to see the various ways
Of dressing a calf's head !

THE PROGRESS OF ADVICE.**A COMMON CASE.**

Suade, nam certum est.
Advise it, for 'tis fix'd.

SAYS Richard to Thomas, (and seem'd half afraid)
 ' I am thinking to marry thy mistress's maid ;
 Now, because Mrs. Lucy to thee is well known,
 I will do't if thou bid'st me, or let it alone.

' Nay, don't make a jest on't; 'tis no jest to me ;
 For faith I'm in earnest ; so, prithee, be free.
 I have no fault to find with the girl since I knew
 her ;
 But I'd have thy advice, ere I tie myself to her.'

Said Thomas to Richard, ' To speak my opinion,
 There is not such a b— in King George's dominion ;
 And I firmly believe, if thou knew'st her as I do,
 Thou wouldest choose out a whipping-post first to
 be tied to.

' She's peevish, she's thievish, she's ugly, she's old,
 And a liar, and a fool, and a slut, and a scold :—
 Next day Richard hasten'd to church and was wed,
 And ere night, had inform'd her what Thomas had
 said.

A BALLAD.

Trahit sua quemque voluptas.
Every one to his liking.

HOR.

FROM Lincoln to London rode forth our young
squire, [mire :
To bring down a wife whom the swains might ad-
But in spite of whatever the mortal could say,
The goddess objected the length of the way.

To give up the opera, the park, and the ball,
For to view the stag's horns in an old country-hall;
To have neither China nor India to see,
Nor a laceman to plague in a morning—not she !

To forsake the dear playhouse, Quin, Garrick, and
Clive,
Who by dint of mere humour had kept her alive ;
To forego the full box for his lonesome abode,
O heavens! she should faint, she should die on the
road.

To forget the gay fashions and gestures of France,
And to leave dear Auguste in the midst of the dance,
And Harlequin too !—'twas in vain to require it;
And she wonder'd how folkshad the face to desire it.

She might yield to resign the sweet singers of Ruck-
holt,
Where the citizen-matron seduces her cuckold ;
But Ranelagh soon would her footsteps recall,
And the music, the lamps, and the glare of Vauxhall.

To be sure she could breathe no where else than in
Town ;—

Thus she talk'd like a wit, and he look'd like a clown ;
But the while honest Harry despair'd to succeed,
A coach with a coronet trail'd her to Tweed.

SLENDER'S GHOST.

WIDE SHAKSPEARE'S MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR.

BENEATH a church-yard yew,
Decay'd and worn with age,
At dusk of eve methought I spied
Poor Slender's Ghost, that whimpering cried,
' O sweet ! O sweet Anne Page !'

Ye gentle bards ! give ear,
Who talk of amorous rage,
Who spoil the lily, rob the rose,
Come learn of me to weep your woes :
' O sweet ! O sweet Anne Page !'

Why should such labour'd strains
Your formal Muse engage ?
I never dream'd of flame or dart,
That fir'd my breast or pierc'd my heart,
But sigh'd, ' O sweet Anne Page !'

And you ! whose love-sick minds
No med'cine can assuage,
Accuse the leech's art no more,
But learn of Slender to deplore ;
' O sweet ! O sweet Anne Page !'

And ye ! whose souls are held
 Like linnets in a cage,
 Who talk of fetters, links, and chains,
 Attend, and imitate my strains ;
 ' O sweet ! O sweet Anne Page !'

And you ! who boast or grieve
 What horrid wars ye wage,
 Of wounds receiv'd from many an eye,
 Yet mean as I do, when I sigh,
 ' O sweet ! O sweet Anne Page !'

Hence every fond conceit
 Of shepherd or of sage ;
 'Tis Slender's voice, 'tis Slender's way,
 Expresses all you have to say,
 ' O sweet ! O sweet Anne Page !'

THE INVIDIOUS.

FROM MARTIAL.

O FORTUNE ! if my prayer of old
 Was ne'er solicitous for gold,
 With better grace thou may'st allow
 My suppliant wish, that asks it now :
 Yet think not, goddess ! I require it
 For the same end your clowns desire it.

In a well-made effectual string
 Fain would I see Lividio swing ;
 Hear him from Tyburn's height haranguing ;
 But such a cur's not worth one's hanging.
 Give me, O goddess ! store of pelf,
 And he will tie the knot himself.

THE PRICE OF AN EQUIPAGE.

Servum si potes, Ole, non habere,
Et regem potes, Oie, non habere. MART.

' If thou from Fortune dost no servant crave,
Believe me, thou no master need'st to have.'

I ASK'D a friend, amidst the throng,
Whose coach it was that trail'd along ?
' The gilded coach there—don't ye mind ?
That with the footmen stuck behind.'
' O sir ! (says he) what ! ha'n't you seen it ?
' Tis Damon's coach, and Damon in it.
' Tis odd, methinks, you have forgot
Your friend, your neighbour, and—what not ?
Your old acquaintance, Damon ?—' True ;
But faith his Equipage is new.'
' Bless me, (said I) where can it end ?
What madness has possess'd my friend ?
Four powder'd slaves, and those the tallest ;
Their stomachs, doubtless, not the smallest ?
Can Damon's revenue maintain,
In lace and food, so large a train ?
I know his land—each inch o' ground—
' Tis not a mile to walk it round—
If Damon's whole estate can bear
To keep his lad and one-horse chair,
I own 'tis past my comprehension.—
' Yes, sir, but Damon has a pension.'—
Thus does a false ambition rule us,
Thus pomp delude, and folly fool us ;
To keep a race of flickering knaves,
He grows himself the worst of slaves.

HINT FROM VOITURE.

LET Sol his annual journeys run,
And when the radiant task is done,
Confess, through all the globe, 'twould pose him
To match the charms that Celia shows him.

And should he boast he once had seen
As just a form, as bright a mien,
Yet must it still for ever pose him
To match—what Celia never shows him.

TO A FRIEND.

HAVE you ne'er seen, my gentle squire !
The humours of your kitchen fire ?—
Says Ned to Sal, ‘ I lead a spade ;
Why don’t ye play ?—the girl’s afraid—
Play something—any thing—but play—
‘Tis but to pass the time away.—
Phoo—how she stands—biting her nails—
As though she play’d for half her vails—
Sorting her cards, bagpling and picking—
We play for nothing, do us Chicken ?
That card will do—blood never doubt it,
It’s not worth while to think about it.’
Sal thought, and thought, and miss’d her aim,
And Ned, ne’er studying, won the game.
Methinks, old Friend ! ‘tis wondrous true
That verse is but a game at loo :

While many a bard, that shows so clearly
 He writes for his amusement merely,
 Is known to study, fret, and toil,
 And play for nothing all the while,
 Or praise at most, for wreaths of yore
 Ne'er signified a farthing more,
 Till having vainly toil'd to gain it,
 He sees your flying pen obtain it.

Through fragrant scenes the trifler roves,
 And hallow'd haunts that Phœbus loves,
 Where with strange heats his bosom glows,
 And mystic flames the god bestows.
 You now none other flame require
 Than a good blazing parlour-fire;
 Write verses—to defy the scorers,
 In s—houses and chimney-corners.

Sal found her deep-laid schemes were vain—
 The cards are cut—come, deal again.—
 No good come on it when one lingers—
 I'll play the cards come next my fingers.—
 Fortune could never let Ned loo her,
 When she had left it wholly to her.

Well, now who wins?—why, still the same—
 For Sal has lost another game.

‘ I've done, (she mutter'd;) I was saying,
 It did not argufy my playing.
 Some folks will win, they cannot choose,
 But think or not think—some must lose.
 I may have won a game or so—
 But then it was an age ago—
 It ne'er will be my lot again—
 I won it of a baby then.—
 Give me an ace of trumps, and see,
 Our Ned will beat me with a three !

'Tis all by luck that things are carried—
He'll suffer for it when he's married.'

Thus Sal, with tears in either eye,
While victor Ned sat tittering by.

Thus I, long envying your success,
And bent to write and study less,
Sat down, and scribbled in a trice
Just what you see—and you despise.

You, who can frame a tuneful song,
And hum it as you ride along,
And, trotting on the king's highway,
Snatch from the hedge a sprig of bay;
Accept this verse, howe'er it flows,
From one that is your friend in prose.

What is this wreath, so green, so fair !
Which many wish, and few must wear ?
Which some men's indolence can gain,
And some men's vigils ne'er obtain ?
For what must Sal or poet sue,
Ere they engage with Ned or you ?
For luck in verse, for luck at loo ?

Ah, no ! 'tis genius gives you fame,
And Ned, through skill, secures the game.

}

THE POET AND THE DUN, 1741.

—
 ‘These are messengers
 That feelingly persuade me what I am.’ SHAKSPEARE.
 —

COMES a Dun in the morning and raps at my door—
 ‘I made bold to call—’tis a twelvemonth and more—
 I’m sorry, believe me, to trouble you thus, sir—
 But Job would be paid, sir, had Job been a mercer.’
 ‘My friend, have but patience’—‘Ay, these are
 your ways.’

‘I have got but one shilling to serve me two days—
 But, sir—prithee take it, and tell your attorney
 If I ha’n’t paid your bill I have paid for your journey.’

Well, now thou art gone, let me govern my passion,
 And calmly consider—Consider? vexation!
 What whore that must paint, and must put on false
 And counterfeit joy in the pangs of the p—x! [locks,
 What beggar’s wife’s nephew, now starv’d, and now
 beaten,

Who, wanting to eat, fears himself shall be eaten!
 What porter, what turnspit, can deem his case hard!
 Or what Dun boast of patience that thinks of a Bard!
 Well, I’ll leave this poor trade, for no trade can be
 poorer,

Turn shoeboy, or courtier, or pimp, or procurer;
 Get love, and respect, and good living, and pelf,
 And dun some poor dog of a poet myself.
 One’s credit, however, of course will grow better,
 Here enters the footman, and brings me a letter.

' Dear sir ! I receiv'd your obliging epistle,
 Your fame is secure—bid the critics go whistle.
 I read over with wonder the poem you sent me,
 And I must speak your praises; no soul shall prevent
 The audience, believe me, cried out every line [me].
 Was strong, was affecting, was just, was divine;
 All pregnant, as gold is, with worth, weight, and
 beauty,

And to hide such a genius was—far from your duty.
 I foresee that the court will be hugely delighted :
 Sir Richard for much a less genius was knighted.
 Adieu, my good friend! and for high life prepare ye;
 I could say much more, but you're modest, I spare
 ye.'

Quite fir'd with the flattery, I call for my paper,
 And waste that and health, and my time, and my
 taper;

I scribble till morn, when with wrath no small store,
 Comes my old friend the mercer, and raps at my
 door.

' Ah, friend ! 'tis but idle to make such a pother,
 Fate, Fate has ordain'd us to plague one another.'

WRITTEN AT AN INN AT HENLEY.

To thee, fair Freedom ! I retire
 From flattery, cards, and dice, and diu ;
 Nor art thou found in mansions higher
 Than the low cot or humble Inn.

'Tis here with boundless power I reign,
 And every health which I begin
 Converts dull port to bright champagne ;
 Such freedom crowns it at an Inn.

I fly from pomp, I fly from plate !
 I fly from Falsehood's specious grin !
 Freedom I love, and form I hate,
 And choose my lodgings at an Inn.
 Here, waiter ! take my sordid ore,
 Which lackeys else might hope to win ;
 It buys, what courts have not in store,
 It buys me freedom at an Inn.
 Whoe'er has travell'd life's dull round,
 Where'er his stages may have been,
 May sigh to think he still has found
 The warmest welcome at an Inn.

A SIMILE.

WHAT village but has sometimes seen
 The clumsy shape, the frightful mien,
 Tremendous claws, and shagged hair,
 Of that grim brute yclep'd a bear ?
 He from his dam, the learn'd agree,
 Receiv'd the curious form you see,
 Who with her plastic tongue alone
 Produc'd a visage—like her own—
 And thus they hint, in mystic fashion,
 The powerful force of education !.—
 Perhaps yon crowd of swains is viewing,
 Ev'n now, the strange exploits of Bruin,
 Who plays his antics, roars aloud,
 The wonder of a gaping crowd !
 So have I known an awkward lad,
 Whose birth has made a parish glad,

¹ Of a fond matron's education.

Forbid for fear of sense, to roam,
 And taught by kind mamma at home,
 Who gives him many a well-tried rule,
 With ways and means—to play the fool.
 In sense the same, in stature higher,
 He shines, ere long, a rural squire ;
 Pours forth unwitty jokes, and swears,
 And bawls, and drinks, but chiefly stares :
 His tenants of superior sense
 Carouse and laugh at his expense,
 And deem the pastime I'm relating
 To be as pleasant as bear-baiting.

THE CHARMS OF PRECEDENCE.

A TALE.

‘ SIR, will you please to walk before ?’
 ‘ —No, pray, sir—you are next the door.’
 ‘ —Upon mine honour I’ll not stir—’
 ‘ Sir, I’m at home; consider, sir.—’
 ‘ Excuse me, sir; I’ll not go first,’
 ‘ Well, if I must be rude, I must—
 But yet I wish I could evade it—
 ’Tis strangely clownish, be persuaded.—’
 Go forward, cits ! go forward, squires !
 Nor scruple each what each admires.
 Life squares not, friends ! with your proceeding,
 It flies while you display your breeding ;
 Such breeding as one’s granam preaches,
 Or some old dancing-master teaches.
 O for some rude tumultuous fellow,
 Half crazy, or at least, half mellow,

To come behind you unawares,
 And fairly push you both down stairs !
 But Death's at hand—let me advise ye,
 Go forward, friends ! or he'll surprise ye.

Besides, how insincere you are !
 Do ye not flatter, lie, forswear,
 And daily cheat, and weekly pray,
 And all for this—to lead the way ?

Such is my theme, which means to prove,
 That though we drink, or game, or love,
 As that or this is most in fashion,
 Precedence is our ruling passion.

When college-students take degrees,
 And pay the beadles' endless fees,
 What moves that scientific body,
 But the first cutting at a gaudy ?
 And whence such shoals, in bare conditions,
 That starve and languish as physicians,
 Content to trudge the streets, and stare at
 The fat apothecary's chariot ?
 But that, in Charlotte's chamber (see
 Moliere's *Médecin malgré lui*)
 The leech, howe'er his fortunes vary,
 Still walks before the' apothecary.

Flavia in vain has wit and charms,
 And all that shines, and all that warms ;
 In vain all human race adore her,
 For—Lady Mary ranks before her.

O Celia ! gentle Celia ! tell us,
 You who are neither vain nor jealous !
 The softest breast, the mildest mien !
 Would you not feel some little spleen,
 Nor bite your lip, nor furl your brow,
 If Florimel, your equal now,

Should one day gain precedence of ye?
 First serv'd—thongh in a dish of coffee?
 Plac'd first, although where you are found
 You gain the eyes of all around?
 Nam'd first, though not with half the fame
 That waits my charming Celia's name?

Hard fortune ! barely to inspire
 Our fix'd esteem and fond desire :
 Barely, where'er you go, to prove
 The source of universal love—
 Yet be content, observing this,
 Honour's the offspring of caprice ;
 And worth, how'e'er you have pursued it,
 Has now no power—but to exclude it :
 You'll find your general reputation
 A kind of supplemental station.

Poor Swift, with all his worth, could ne'er,
 He tells us, hope to rise a peer ;
 So, to supply it, wrote for fame,
 And well the wit secur'd his aim.
 A common patriot has a drift
 Not quite so innocent as Swift ;
 In Britain's cause he rants, he labours ;
 ' He's honest, faith.'—Have patience, neighbours,
 For patriots may sometimes deceive,
 May beg their friends' reluctant leave
 To serve them in a higher sphere,
 And drop their virtue to get there.—

As Lucian tells us, in his fashion,
 How souls put off each earthly passion,
 Ere on Elysium's flowery strand
 Old Charon suffer'd 'em to land ;
 So, ere we meet a court's caresses,
 No doubt our souls must change their dresses ; .

And souls there be who, bound that way,
Attire themselves ten times a-day.

If then 'tis rank which all men covet,
And saints alike and sinners love it ;
If place, for which our courtiers throng
So thick, that few can get along,
For which such servile toils are seen,
Who's happier than a king?—a queen.

Howe'er men aim at elevation,
'Tis properly a female passion :
Women and beaux, beyond all measure,
Are charm'd with rank's ecstatic pleasure.

‘ Sir, if your drift I rightly scan,
You'd hint a beau were not a man :’—
Say women then are fond of places ;
I wave all disputable cases.

A man, perhaps, would something linger,
Were his lov'd rank to cost—a finger ;
Or were an ear or toe the price on't,
He might deliberate once or twice on't,
Perhaps ask Gataker's advice on't ;
And many, as their frame grows old,
Would hardly purchase it with gold.

But women wish Precedence ever ;
'Tis their whole life's supreme endeavour ;
It fires their youth with jealous rage,
And strongly animates their age :
Perhaps they would not sell outright,
Or maim a limb—that was in sight ;
Yet on worse terms they sometimes choose it,
Nor ev'n in punishments refuse it.

‘ Pre-eminence in pain !’ you cry,
All fierce and pregnant with reply :



But lend your patience and your ear,
An argument shall make it clear.
But hold, an argument may fail;
Beside, my title says,—a tale.

Where Avon rolls her winding stream,
Avon! the Muses' favourite theme ;
Avon! that fills the farmers' purses,
And decks with flowers both farms and verses ;
She visits many a fertile vale—
Such was the scene of this my tale ;
For 'tis in Ev'sham's Vale, or near it,
That folks with laughter tell and hear it.

The soil, with annual plenty bless'd,
Was by young Corydon possess'd.
His youth alone I lay before ye,
As most material to my story ;
For strength and vigour too, he had 'em,
And 'twere not much amiss to add 'em.

Thrice happy lout ! whose wide domain
Now green with grass, now gilt with grain,
In russet robes of clover deep,
Or thinly veil'd, and white with sheep ;
Now fragrant with the bean's perfume,
Now purpled with the pulse's bloom,
Might well with bright allusion store me ;—
But happier bards have been before me.

Amongst the various year's increase
The stripling own'd a field of pease,
Which, when at night he ceas'd his labours,
Were haunted by some female neighbours.
Each morn discover'd to his sight
The shameful havoc of the night ;
Traces of this they left behind 'em,
But no instructions where to find 'em.

The devil's works are plain and evil,
 But few or none have seen the devil.
 Old Noll, indeed, (if we may credit
 The words of Echard, who has said it,)
 Contriv'd with Satan how to fool us,
 And bargain'd face to face to rule us;
 But then old Noll was one in ten,
 And sought him more than other men:
 Our shepherd, too, with like attention,
 May meet the female fiends we mention.
 He rose one morn at break of day,
 And near the field in ambush lay;
 When, lo ! a brace of girls appears,
 The third a matron much in years.
 Smiling amidst the pease, the sinners
 Sat down to cull their future dinners,
 And caring little who might own 'em,
 Made free, as though themselves had sown 'em.

'Tis worth a sage's observation,
 How love can make a jest of passion.
 Anger had forc'd the swain from bed,
 His early dues to love unpaid;
 And Love, a god that keeps a pothe,
 And will be paid one time or other,
 Now banish'd Anger out o' door,
 And claim'd the debt withheld before.
 If Anger bid our youth revile,
 Love form'd his features to a smile;
 And knowing well 'twas all grimace
 To threaten with a smiling face,
 He in few words express'd his mind—
 And none would deem them much unkind.

The amorous youth, for their offence,
 Demanded instant recompense;

That recompense from each, which shame
Forbids a bashful Muse to name :
Yet, more this sentence to discover,
'Tis what Bett * * grants her lover,
When he, to make the strumpet willing,
Has spent his fortune—to a shilling.

Each stood a while, as 'twere suspended,
And loth to do what—each intended.

At length, with soft pathetic sighs,
The matron, bent with age, replies :
' 'Tis vain to strive—justice, I know,
And our ill stars, will have it so—
But let my tears your wrath assuage,
And show some deference for age :
I from a distant village came,
Am old, G— knows, and something lame ;
And if we yield, as yield we must,
Dispatch my crazy body first.'

Our shepherd, like the Phrygian swain,
When circled round on Ida's plain
With goddesses, he stood suspended,
And Pallas's grave speech was ended,
Own'd what she ask'd might be his duty,
But paid the compliment to beauty.

ODE.

TO BE PERFORMED BY DR. BRETTE, AND A CHORUS OF HALES-OWEN CITIZENS.

The instrumental part a Viol d'Amour.

AIR BY THE DOCTOR.

AWAKE! I say, awake, good people!
And be for once alive and gay;
Come, let's be merry; stir the tipple;
How can you sleep
Whilst I do play? How can you sleep, &c.

CHORUS OF CITIZENS.

Pardon, O! pardon, great musician!
On drowsy souls some pity take;
For wondrous hard is our condition,
To drink thy beer,
Thy strains to hear;
To drink,
To hear,
And keep awake!

SOLO BY THE DOCTOR.

Hear but this strain—'twas made by Handel,
A wight of skill and judgment deep!
Zoonters, they're gone—Sal, bring a candle—
No; here is one, and he's asleep.

DUETTE.

DR.—How could they go [Soft music.
Whilst I do play?

SAL.—How could they go? [Warlike music.
How should they stay?

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